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U.N. chief appeals to superpowers
UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Wednesday urged the major powers to end their confrontation in the interests of humanity. "The responsibility assumed by the great powers is now no longer to their populations alone," he said. "It is to every country and every people, to all of us." Calling reliance on nuclear deterrence "a perpetual community of self," Mr. Perez de Cuellar said: "With the accelerating pace of military technology, the need to counter each new threat will become ever more frantic and desperate." The U.N. head, who made his remarks in an address to the General Assembly, welcomed next month's scheduled meeting in Geneva between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. "I appeal to the two leaders to ensure that these talks lead to persistent, determined negotiations," he said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية، الوابي.

Petrol prices increased
AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat Wednesday issued a Defence Order directing price increases on petroleum products. Ordinary grade petrol to go up to 180 fils per litre, super grade petrol 210 fils, gas cylinders (12.5 kg) to JD 1,800. Other increases included aviation fuel, fuel oil and asphalt. In the meantime the cabinet approved changes in electricity consumption rates for domestic use as follows: 1 - 160 Kw. 38 fils per Kw. over and above 160 Kw. 52 fils per Kw. Both to take effect as of today, Thursday Dec. 13.

Volume 9 - Number 2743 AMMAN, THURSDAY-FRIDAY DECEMBER 13-14, 1984, RABIA AWWAL 20-21, 1405 Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Regent receives Kuwaiti thanks
AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Regent, Wednesday received a cable from Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Fahd bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud in reply to a cable sent following the safe release of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner's passengers in Tehran following their six-day ordeal. In his reply, the Regent thanked Prince Hassan for congratulating Kuwait and its people on foiling the terrorists' attempt to kill the innocent civil passengers.

Arafat confers with King Hassan
RABAT (R) — Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat conferred for two hours Wednesday with King Hassan II of Morocco at the royal palace in Rabat. The agency said Mr. Arafat left the country shortly after the meeting. He gave no details of his talks with the king. On arrival Wednesday he said he would inform the king of the results of the recent meeting in Amman of the Palestine National Council. He has been touring Arab capitals since the meeting to discuss its outcome.

Iran 'will not extradite' hijackers
TEHRAN (AP) — Iranian Prime Minister Hassan Musavi said Wednesday Iran acted "logically" in refusing to extradite hijackers. He said the hijacking of the Iranian ship "Al-Badr" was a "national issue" and that the hijackers would not be handed over to the United States or any other country. He said the hijacking was a "national issue" and that the hijackers would not be handed over to the United States or any other country.

is back
DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Assad returned to Damascus Wednesday after a two-day visit to Beirut. He said he had a "productive" meeting with Lebanese President Amal Aoun. He said he had a "productive" meeting with Lebanese President Amal Aoun.

Strike threat forces Israel to free doctor
TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli occupation forces have released the director of a Soviet Union hospital in southern Lebanon Wednesday but threatened a strike if the doctor was not released. The director, Dr. Ibrahim Atwi, was released after three days' detention. The sources said.

INSIDE
Egypt reiterates conditions for Mubarak summit with Peres, page 2.
Aha: aims to improve sales, open new routes, page 3.
Hitler lost ordinary Germans' support with closing defeat, page 4.
Aramic still spoken in Syrian village, page 5.
Mayotte heads seeded players in NSW Open, page 6.
BNOC does not aim to maintain oil prices high, British minister says, page 7.
Gandhi pledges to crush divisive forces in India, page 8.

Israeli intransigence will only harden Arab stand, Hussein warns

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

LONDON — The continuing Israeli refusal to respond positively to calls for a peaceful settlement to the Middle East conflict will harden the Arab position towards any future solutions to the conflict, His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday.

In an address to the British Royal College of Physicians, the King said Israel's refusal to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and the Jewish state's continued violation of the sanctity of religious places under its occupation are "already hardening Arab attitudes" and deepening "the grievances."

The Israeli intransigence, the King added, "heightens tension and serves only to perpetuate the conflict."

Referring to the current impasse in efforts for peace in the Middle East, the King said: "If this state of affairs is to prevail much longer, then the area's stability will be further compromised and that the attitude of Arab youth will inevitably be provoked into a reversion to previous intransigence."

Any efforts to restore peace and stability to the Middle East should address the Palestinian problem, he said. "The injustices and grievances suffered by the Palestinians have been ignored for too long," he said.

"Whatever the nature of the settlement, it cannot be just and lasting unless it recognises the inalienable right to self-determination for the Palestinian people in their own homeland," he said. "The foundations for such a future settlement have already been laid down in several United Nations and Security Council resolutions, specifically 242 and 338 of 1967 and 1973 respectively."

General Assembly repeats call for conference on Middle East

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. General Assembly Tuesday repeated a call for an international Middle East peace conference despite objections by Israel, the United States and Canada.

The world body expressed regret at the "negative response" from the United States and Israel and urged them to reconsider their positions.

A total of 121 countries approved a resolution urging all governments to convene the conference without delay.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was told to continue trying to arrange the meeting and report back by March 15.

The resolution was one of four adopted by the General Assembly following a lengthy debate on the Palestine question. The others were mainly technical in nature.

Other resolutions passed call for: Implementation of all recommendations of the U.N. committees on the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

The United Nations secretariat to give full support to the division on Palestinian affairs in the secretariat.

Durban sit-in ends

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) — Three political dissidents who hid from security police inside the British consulate for three months walked out of their hideout Wednesday afternoon. Police arrested two who left by the rear door, while a crowd of chanting supporters carried off the third, who came out from the front of the building. He was not immediately arrested.

Archie Gumede, president of the United Democratic Front (UDF), and Paul David, of the Natal Indian Congress (NIC), were taken away by police and their lawyer said he was almost certain they would be charged with treason.

Syrian diplomat escapes gun attack in Greece

ATHENS (AP) — Unknown gunmen fired several shots at a Syrian embassy diplomat in a suburb of the Greek capital, but failed to hit him, police reported Wednesday.

Police identified the diplomat as Abdullah Yassin, 38, attaché at the Syrian embassy in Athens for the past three years.

A police spokesman said the incident took place about midnight Tuesday as Mr. Yassin entered his car after a visit to a friend's house at the seaside suburb of Kalamaki.

The spokesman said Mr. Yassin hid behind his car and returned the fire. But the gunmen, said to be two or three, managed to escape when a neighbour came out from a nearby house.



HAPPY REUNION: The captain of the hijacked Kuwait Airways Airbus, Harry Clark, reunited with his wife Tess at Kuwait airport upon his return from Tehran with other released hostages Tuesday night (AP wirephoto)

Masri: Jordan nearing decision on arms

AMMAN (AP) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri said Tuesday that a formal decision about where Jordan will buy new weapons is likely to be announced soon.

He said that even if Jordan decides to buy Soviet arms, turning away from the United States, the purchase would not affect Jordanian policy.

"Our decision is approaching," Mr. Masri said in an interview. Asked if Jordan had largely decided where it would buy the weapons it needed, he said, "Yes."

Jordan's request for American shoulder-fired "Stinger" anti-aircraft weapons earlier this year were frustrated by pro-Israeli opposition in the U.S. Congress.

King Hussein said the "negative American stand" prompted Jordan to seek arms elsewhere. Jordanian officials have been negotiating with the Soviet Union, Britain, France and other arms makers.

"If we buy arms from the Soviet Union, we will still be as independent as ever," Mr. Masri said. In the past, he said, "all our arms came from the United States, and yet we criticised them harshly only a few months ago and we still do."

He said the weapons "will be totally in Jordanian hands, whether we buy from the Soviet Union, from the United States or any other sources."

Gorbachev expected in London Saturday

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet politburo member Mikhail Gorbachev flies to London on Saturday to meet British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and boost his own standing as her apparent ally.

During a week in Britain, Mr. Gorbachev, 53, will also meet Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe for talks expected to centre on the nuclear arms stalemate in Europe and next month's resumption of the U.S.-Soviet dialogue.

The Kremlin has made clear it intends to press its demands, so far rejected by London, for the inclusion of Britain's nuclear deterrent in East-West bargaining.

Mr. Gorbachev will tour industrial centres but it is not clear if he will meet representatives of Britain's striking miners who have received moral and financial support from Moscow.

Western diplomats regard Mr. Gorbachev as a pragmatist and potential reformer who could challenge the West.

They believe the late President Yuri Andropov wanted him for his successor.

Will Gorbachev's London visit open new chapter? page 4

Hussein explains position to Gulf states

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasbi returned to Amman Wednesday evening at the end of a tour of the Gulf region where he delivered messages from His Majesty King Hussein to the leaders of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

In the messages King Hussein explained Jordan's position vis-a-vis the developments in the Arab World and Jordan's views in the light of the outcome of the Palestine National Council meeting that was held in Amman last month and King Hussein's visit to Egypt earlier this month.

(Continued on page 2)

Ex-premier takes power after coup in Mauritania

NOUAKCHOTT (Agencies) — Former Mauritania Prime Minister Lieutenant-Colonel Maouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Ould Taya seized power Wednesday in a coup in Mauritania. Nouakchott Radio said.

The Radio said a night curfew had been imposed and all airports closed until further notice.

Deposed Mauritania President Lt.-Col. Mohammed Khounza Ould Haidera, who was in the Burundi capital Bujumbura attending a Franco-African summit meeting, left for an unknown destination upon hearing the news, reports said.

It was not known if he was returning to Nouakchott or heading for another destination.

Radio Nouakchott said Col. Taya took power Tuesday afternoon and that the military committee was unchanged, with the exception of Col. Haidera.

A 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew was declared throughout the country and all airports were closed to incoming flights from abroad.

The radio said the situation in the capital was calm but guns had been placed in front of armed forces headquarters.

Col. Haidera sacked Col. Taya as prime minister last March and took over the day-to-day running of government in a major cabinet reshuffle. He also replaced Col. Haidera, who was considered

pro-Libyan and a strong supporter of the Polisario Front, fighting for the independence of the former Spanish Sahara, the observers said. The other faction, thought to have included Col. Taya, was anti-Libyan.

Mauritania, which depends for most of its meagre foreign exchange earnings on iron ore exports, celebrated 24 years of independence this month.

Mauritania is a drought-hit nation on the fringe of the Sahara Desert. About the size of France and Spain combined, its capital is Nouakchott, on the Atlantic coast. Formerly a city of 100,000 people, it is now home to 450,000, many of them living in tents and shantytowns.

The traditional nomadic way of life has been disrupted by the drought and encroachment of deserts. Agricultural and pastoral lands in the south are shrinking as the desert expands, resulting in massive migration to the cities.

Mauritania, two-thirds of its land already swallowed up by the desert before the current drought, now produces only about five per cent of its food needs. Cereal production, which used to average 100,000 tons annually, is estimated at 15,000 tons this year.

Vast herds of cattle are dead or have migrated south across the Senegal River.

Shultz criticises Belgian, Dutch stands

BRUSSELS (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said Wednesday the failure of Belgium and the Netherlands to commit themselves to deploying U.S. cruise missiles was harmful to the prospects for U.S.-Soviet arms talks.

He was speaking to reporters before meeting Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens and holding separate talks with Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek, whose governments are wavering over deployment decisions due next year.

"Of course it is harmful if undertakings are not adhered to," Mr. Shultz said. "And it is certainly the case that if the Soviets can get their way without giving up anything by engaging in negotiations, it is discouraging to the negotiations."

Belgium and the Netherlands, under strong public pressure, have delayed decisions on taking 48 cruise missiles under a 1979 NATO plan to site U.S. Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in Europe in response to the Soviet SS-20 medium-range missiles.

Belgium was due to give the green light this month to begin basing in March but postponed the decision, saying the meeting between Mr. Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in Geneva on Jan. 7 and 8 might make deployment unnecessary.

The Dutch government has made deployment conditional on the Soviet Union arsenal of SS-20s increasing by next November above the 378 missiles deployed last June.

Mr. Shultz stressed the U.S. contention that Moscow would only agree to negotiate a reduction of the SS-20 if the NATO

Thousands leave Indian gas-leak city

BHOPAL, India (Agencies) — Thousands of people are leaving Bhopal, afraid of plans by scientists to neutralise stocks of the poisonous gas that killed about 2,500 people last week.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Arjun Singh told reporters the 15 tonnes of methyl isocyanate gas in the Union Carbide plant would be turned into pesticides "under the fullest safety" from 9 a.m. on Sunday.

Officials said there was no danger. But many families Wednesday packed belongings and left the city's old quarter where the plant is located.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said about one third of the old quarter's 50,000 people had left for distant hill suburbs or other towns.

Buses, taxis and motor rickshaws carried them out of the city.

Bhopal bus station official J. Sharma told Reuters traffic on outward-bound government buses had doubled, while the number of people coming to Bhopal had fallen by 75 per cent.

Railways spokesman G. Meghani said passenger numbers were up substantially.

"People still fear a gas leak," he said.

Long queues of private cars and scooters were at petrol stations.

All schools and colleges were ordered shut from Wednesday until Dec. 21. No official reason was given, but Bhopal people widely linked the closure order to the neutralisation operation.

Indian scientists and American technicians are in the plant. Indian team leader Dr. S. Varadarajan described his men as "a bomb disposal squad."

"The process will be 100 per cent safe and no one needs to be evacuated," a Union Carbide spokesman said.

Official sources said about 200 state-owned buses were standing by, but a government spokesman repeated earlier denials of government plans to evacuate up to 15,000 people from the city.

"All preparations have been made. We are ready for any contingency. There will be no evacuation," the spokesman said.

Chief Minister Singh has said he would stay in the plant during the operation in a bid to reassure the city's 700,000 residents.

Egypt repeats conditions for summit with Peres

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak Wednesday repeated his conditions for a summit with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and said no decision had yet been taken on holding such talks with Israel.

Mr. Mubarak spoke to reporters after an hour-long meeting with Egyptian Prime Minister Daruk Seri Mahathir Muhammad, who arrived in Cairo Tuesday for a five-day visit to discuss bolstering his country's ties with Egypt.

"I have issued my conditions as preparations for the summit and when we reach a conclusion it will be well known," he said.

Asked if preparations were being made for a summit with Mr. Peres, Mr. Mubarak said this had not been decided yet.

The first condition listed was a solution to the dispute over Taba, a one-kilometre strip in Sinai still held by Israel.

Mr. Mubarak said the other two

conditions were "to solve the problems of Lebanon and a move on the Palestinian issue".

Egypt, which signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, withdrew its ambassador from Tel Aviv in 1982 in protest against Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

Mubarak said the Taba issue was still under discussion and that he hoped a "good solution" would be reached.

Israel's ambassador to Egypt, Moshe Sasson, has had talks with Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Maguid in the past week to discuss the issues which have strained relations between the two countries.

Mr. Peres said in Paris last week that a summit with Egypt was a top priority for the Middle East process in addition to dialogue with Jordan and an agreement with Syria over Lebanon.

The Malaysian premier said after his meeting with Mr. Mubarak that he had invited the Egyptian leader to visit Malaysia but no date had been set.

The Malaysian prime minister and his Egyptian counterpart Kamal Hassan Ali began their first round of formal talks after the meeting with Mr. Mubarak.

The Egyptian side included Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Maguid and Defence Minister Field Marshal Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala.

Earlier the Egyptian premier said there has been no improvement so far in strained relations with Israel.

Asked whether bilateral relations were moving forward following recent diplomatic ex-



Hosni Mubarak

changes. Mr. Ali said: "Till now we can't say that."

"We are discussing details," Mr. Mubarak said. "I can't tell you exactly... things take some time."

Mr. Ali said: "We are really making a survey of bilateral relations and how to improve them."

The prime minister said both countries were committed to continuing efforts to improve relations, which soured following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June 1982.

"You know our stand," Mr. Ali told reporters. "All depends on the Israeli side."

Iraq resumes Gulf attacks

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq recently resumed attacks on tankers shipping Iranian oil because Iran had significantly raised its crude exports during a lull in Iraqi raids, informed diplomatic sources said Wednesday.

The sources told Reuters Iraq's halting of attacks on shipping in mid-October was a political decision aimed at giving the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) a chance to start a new peace initiative to end the Iran-Iraq war.

The GCC held a summit in Kuwait last month in which the Gulf war was a major topic but its efforts were not fruitful because Iran rejected any new peace moves, the sources said.

As a result, Iraq decided to resume attacks on ships dealing with Iran and hit the Cypriot tanker Minotaur on Dec. 3 as she headed for Iraq's oil terminal on Kharg Island to load crude, they added.

Iraq, at war with Iran since 1980, began attacking ships early this year to cut off Iran's oil exports and thereby cripple its war effort.

Before the attacks, Iranian crude exports were running at around 1.7 million barrels a day. By late summer, after regular Iraqi air raids on oil tankers and other ships visiting Iranian terminals, Iran's exports fell below one million barrels a day.

After Iraqi planes hit the fully-loaded Iranian tanker Sivand in the Gulf on Oct. 15, no Iraqi attacks on ships were reported until the Minotaur on Dec. 3.

The informed diplomatic sources said Iraq decided to resume the attacks after learning that Iranian crude exports had risen to around two million barrels a day during the lull.

Meanwhile, diplomats here said they believed the Minotaur was hit by an Exocet missile fired by one of more than a dozen new sophisticated French-made Mirage F-1eq5 fighter-bombers recently received by Iraq.

The Exocets carried by the newly-delivered planes had a longer range than the 40 kilometre combat range of the Exocets.

U.S. confirms holding exercise with Israel

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Defence Department has confirmed that United States and Israeli naval vessels are conducting an anti-submarine exercise in the Mediterranean Sea.

Michael Burch, the Pentagon's chief spokesman, said the Aircraft Carrier Eisenhower and other ships in its battle group had joined Israeli vessels Tuesday to begin the exercise.

On Monday evening, Defence Department officials had confirmed the Eisenhower was leaving port in Haifa, but said they knew of no plans for an exercise beyond a routine rendezvous with Israeli ships as the carrier left port.

"There is an exercise underway," Mr. Burch said Tuesday when asked about the Eisenhower's deployment.

"Units of the USS Eisenhower battle group and the Israeli Navy are conducting an anti-submarine exercise to practice anti-submarine warfare techniques. That exercise started today and will last a few days."

The spokesman said the exercise was "long-planned," but added he didn't know precisely when it would end or how many ships were involved.

A U.S.-Navy official who asked not to be named later said the exercise involved only two U.S. ships — the Eisenhower and the guided-missile cruiser Mississippi. Both are nuclear-powered.

The official added the exercise was scheduled to last a week, and that Israeli observers were aboard the Eisenhower. The official said he did not know how many Israeli ships were participating in the exercise, but confirmed it was the first anti-submarine exercise ever conducted by the two countries.

Meanwhile a private study group said Tuesday the Reagan administration has expanded U.S.

military exercises in Central America and the Middle East to a provocative level which undermines other ways of solving problems.

The Centre for Defence Information (CDI), a think tank headed by retired military officers and often critical of Pentagon spending, said in a report that more than 500,000 American troops now take part each year in manoeuvres around the globe.

"U.S. war games in the Middle East and Central America are provocative and undermine initiatives which offer a more sensible means of resolving political and economic problems in both regions," the report said.

The CDI said previous administrations had attempted to use war games as a means of pressuring foreign governments.

But the scale of recent Central American military exercises, including participation of 6,000 U.S. troops in "operation big plane" in Honduras this year, provided a vivid and dangerous example of how manoeuvres could be used to "gunboat diplomacy," the report said.

The centre suggested that facilities being built in Honduras could be used to support a future U.S. invasion of leftist Nicaragua.

"This attitude and the expanded use of U.S. war games reveal the frightening degree to which the present administration seems to have given up on foreign policy and diplomacy and come to rely overwhelmingly on military measures to resolve conflicts with other states," said CDI Deputy Director Eugene Carroll, a retired admiral.

The report said 8,000 Americans took part in 1983 in "Operation Bright Star" in the Middle East, along with forces from Egypt, Sudan, Somalia and Oman.

Arabs prepare for APU meeting

DAMASCUS (J.T.) — Preparations for holding the 15th annual meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU), due to be held in Aden on Jan. 26, 1985, have started, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Taking part in the three-day meeting of the APU will be heads of Arab parliaments, members in the APU, Petra added.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra's correspondent, the APU Secretary General said the APU's 15th session will discuss organisational, administrative and political issues.

Sharon asked to return home

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli opposition party petitioned the supreme court Wednesday to compel Industry Minister Ariel Sharon, suing Time magazine for libel in New York, to return home immediately or vacate his post.

Mr. Sharon, 47, left for New York on Nov. 5 to testify in the \$50 million libel suit. He is suing over Time's allegation that when defence minister he helped provoke the 1982 Beirut massacre of hundreds of Palestinian civilians by Lebanese Falangist militiamen.

The Citizens Rights Movement said in its petition Mr. Sharon originally said he would be absent for only two weeks.

'Israeli intransigence will harden Arab stand'

(Continued from page 1)

undergone a dramatic transformation. Sadly the new spirit of moderation in Arab public opinion has not been reciprocated. The shift in Israel has been towards greater intransigence and increasing aggression, while we sought peace, they wrought war.

"Their seems to be a fortress mentality. They do not yet appear to realise that a fortress built on injustice will inevitably fail, and that security is a frame of mind of peoples committed to uphold it, once an honourable, just, peace

Andreotti defends Arafat meeting

ROME (R) — Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti Wednesday defended a meeting he held with Yasser Arafat, describing the Palestine Liberation Organisation as a "valid political interlocutor." He said: "No impartial political observer can deny that the PLO constitutes an important expression of that people." Mr. Andreotti said the talks in Tunis last Thursday permitted Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and himself to hear the PLO leader's assessment of peace initiative.

is achieved for all times to come."

"We conceded that in 1967 Israel could have been safe and secure within its own borders then. Israel could have avoided the death and destruction of the ensuing years, the huge number of casualties, including civilians, on all sides, and the suffering of Arabs — both Palestinian and Lebanese. The killing of Muslims, Christians and Jews has not taken place because Israel faced mortal danger, but because it refused to withdraw and refused to evacuate its forces from occupied Arab territories as was demanded by Resolution 242, the preamble of which quoted from the United Nations Charter — 'the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war'."

"The erosion of these principles will in due course destroy the prospect of the better future we seek. The aggregate rights of the Palestinian people, cultural, religious, economic, social and political, embodied in their right to self-determination, must be protected. The national objective, expressed by both Palestinians and Jordanians, most recently at the Palestine National Council, — 'Israeli expansionist designs promote nothing but antagonism. Arab Jerusalem must return to

King sends messages to Gulf states

(Continued from page 1)

The messages explained Jordan's call for the convening of an international conference to resolve the Middle East problem on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 which guarantees the return of the usurped land to its legitimate owners, Mr. Qasem said. He said that he explained to the Arab leaders that such a conference should group all concerned parties including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) along with major world powers.

Mr. Qasem said that he conveyed Jordan's call for an intensification of Arab efforts and a bolstering of Arab solidarity.

Numeiri appeals for famine aid

PEKING (AP) — Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri has said the international community must give more aid to alleviate the famine threatening millions in his native Africa.

Speaking at an official Chinese welcoming banquet, Mr. Numeiri said China could contribute by teaching African countries its successful techniques in agriculture and rural labour management.

His remarks were reported by the official news agency Xinhua.

"The Sudanese president said that Africa was now facing starvation and diseases as a result of a severe drought," Xinhua said. "He called on international organisations to provide the drought-stricken areas with food and medicine."

Xinhua also quoted Numeiri and his Chinese counterpart Li Xianmin as saying in their banquet toasts that both countries pursue independent foreign policies, oppose superpower meddling and want to increase Chinese-Sudanese cooperation.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

23:00 News Summary
24:00 Close Down

MAIN CHANNEL

17:00 Koran
17:30 Cartoons
18:00 Children Programme
18:15 Chips
19:00 Local Programme on road safety
19:30 Programme Review
19:40 Week's Event
19:55 Poetry
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local Competition Programme
21:30 Tomorrow's Programmes
21:45 Arabic Play
22:00 News in Arabic
22:10 Play Continued

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Varieties: Antibes en Ombre
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 The Hello Goodbye Man
21:10 Charlie
22:00 News in English
22:10 Movie of the Week: Doctors' Secrets

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
partly on 95.50 KHz. SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show
09:30 Pop Session
10:00 News Summary
10:30 Pop Session
11:00 News Bulletin
11:30 Just A Minute
12:00 News Summary
12:30 Instrumentals
13:00 Just A Minute
13:30 News Summary
14:00 Instrumentals
14:30 Old Favourites
15:00 Special Feature
15:30 Pop Session
16:00 News Summary
16:30 Good Old Days
17:00 Music
17:30 News Summary
18:00 Music
18:30 News Summary
19:00 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:30 Evening Show
21:55 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newswest 06:30 Classical Record Review 06:45 Financial Review 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09 24 Hour News Summary 07:15 Paul's Choice 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newswest 08:30 Nature Notebook 08:40 The Farming World 09:00 World News 09:09 24 Hours: News Summary 09:50 Cole Porter And His Music 09:55 World News Summary 10:15 Paul's Choice 10:45 The World Today 11:00 News Summary 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Monitor 12:00 The Ideal Case 12:30 Three Men In A Boat 13:00 World News 13:09 News Summary on Britain 13:15 New Ideas 13:25 The Week in Wales 13:30 Assignment 14:00 Radio News 14:05 Luke Box Duty 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Network UK 15:45 The Brotherhood of Brass 16:15 News Summary 16:30 Radio News 16:45 Luke Box Duty 17:00 Radio Newsline 17:15 The Pleasure's Yours 18:10 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Assignment 18:45 World Today 19:00 World News 19:09 News Summary 19:15 The Week in Wales 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newswest 20:30 Discovery 21:00 Outlook 21:30 Stock Market Report 21:43 Look-and-Listen 21:50 Report on Religion 22:00 World News 22:09 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Business Matters 23:00 News Summary 23:05 In the Meantime 23:15 A Jolly Good Show 24:00 World News 06:25 The Week in Wales 06:30 Financial News

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1240, SW 7200, 9365, 11740,
11925 & 15210 KHz

06:00 VOA Morning News. Informal Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listeners' Questions, Science Digest, Sports news at 30 minute past the hour. 17:00 News 17:30 Music USA 18:00 News 18:10 Focus 18:30 Special English 19:00 Feature Reports 19:30 News 19:10 Newsline 19:40 Focus 20:00 News 20:10 Focus 20:30 Special English and Features 21:00 Newsline America 21:30 Music USA 22:00 News and Editorial 22:15 Music USA Jazz 23:00 VOA World Report

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

MUSEUMS

EXHIBITIONS

An exhibition of oil and water colour paintings, ceramics and wood carvings by Asmah Al Jamal and Mohammad Samara at the Royal Cultural Centre until Dec. 17.

An exhibition of Islamic books at the University of Jordan library.

An exhibition of books on Western art at the British Council until Dec. 16.

An art exhibition of oils and watercolours by Nello (Swiss) at 6:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre until Dec. 22.

An exhibition of graphics by Yasser Dweik at the British Council.

FILM

"The Great Muppet Caper" (97 min.) at 5:00 p.m. at the American Centre.

PLAY

A mime play entitled "Jack and the Beans talk" at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre (Dec. 13th, 14th, and 15th).

CONCERT

"Airs d'Opera et Melodies" at 8:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (entry free)

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre	Tel. 6610267
American Centre	44371
British Council	41520
French Cultural Centre	36147-R
Goethe Institute	37009
Soviet Cultural Centre	44203
Spanish Cultural Centre	34049
Turkish Cultural Centre	39777
Haya Arts Centre	665195
Husseini Youth City	667181
Y.W.C.A.	41793
Amman Municipal Library	36111
University of Jordan Library	R43555

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also models from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphi Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m. Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. N15261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel. 34590.
 Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luwadih. 34440.
 De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein. 661757.
 Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. 23541.
 Anglican Church (Church of the Redemptorist) Abdali. 23541.
 Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. 771331.
 Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. 775261.
 St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. 771751.
 Assam International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. R16534.

PRAYER TIMES

05:00	..... Fajr
06:28	..... (Sunrise) Duha
11:50	..... Dhur
16:31	..... Asr
17:59	..... Maghreb
	..... 'Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT	MARITIME TRAFFIC
This information is supplied by Alia International Airport at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53250, where it should always be verified.	Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:
ARRIVALS	Volta River
06:00	..... Cairo (MS)
09:15	..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RI)
09:15	..... Bucharest (RO)
09:45	..... Doha, Bahrain (RI)
09:45	..... Kuwait (RI)
09:45	..... Jeddah (RI)
09:45	..... Cairo (RI)
10:00	..... Dhahran (RI)
10:00	..... Beirut (RI)
10:35	..... Dhahran, Riyadh (SV)
11:30	..... Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
14:30	..... Tripoli, Larnaca (LN)
14:40	..... Kuwait (KU)
15:00	..... Cairo (RI)
16:00	..... Athens (OA)
16:45	..... Baghdad (IA)
16:45	..... Cairo, Aqaba (RI)
17:00	..... Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (IA)
17:10	..... Vienna, New York (RI)
17:10	..... Athens (OA)
17:40	..... Belgrade, Istanbul (RI)
18:10	..... Amsterdam, Larnaca (KLMA)
18:15	..... Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
19:20	..... Athens (OA)
20:50	..... Cairo (MS)
23:30	..... London (BA)
00:45	..... Cairo (RI)
01:10	..... Baghdad (IA)
DEPARTURES	WEATHER
05:45	..... Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
07:00	..... Cairo (MS)
07:50	..... Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:00	..... Beirut (MEA)
08:15	..... Vienna, New York (RI)
11:15	..... Aqaba, Cairo (RI)
11:30	..... Athens (OA)
12:00	..... Paris, London (RI)
12:00	..... Brussels, Frankfurt (RI)
12:30	..... Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
13:00	..... Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
15:30	..... Larnaca, Tripoli (LN)
15:50	..... Larnaca (CY)
16:40	..... Kuwait (KU)
17:15	..... Baghdad (IA)
18:30	..... Kuwait (RI)
19:40	..... Doha, Muscat (RI)
20:15	..... Jeddah (RI)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES	TAXIS
Ambulance 193, 775111	Kilayana taxi 41541
Fire 193, 775111	Bassam Palace taxi 81187
Blood bank 193, 775111	Syria taxi 43265
Civil Defence rescue 661111	Husseini taxi 21276
Police headquarters 22090-3	Kilayana taxi 66488
Fire rescue 193, 21111, 37777	Ahli taxi 21277
Traffic police 39141	Aj Koot 77574
Electric Power Co. 36381-2	IRIBD
Municipal water service 771125-8	Dr. Ahmad Al Omari 75388
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53333	Bassam taxi 7543
HOSPITALS	ZARQA
Husseini Medical Centre R13813-32	Dr. Mestah Hijazi 98217
Kilayana Medical Centre 44281-4	Al Haditha pharmacy (—)
Al-Badr Medical Centre 42362	GENERAL
Jabal Amman Maternity 42362	Jordan Television 773111
Malhas, J. Amman 36140	Radio Jordan 774111
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171-4	Ministry of Tourism 42513
Shmeisani Hospital 669131	Hotel complaints 66642
University Hospital 64150	Peace complaints 66175
Dr. Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158	Telephone
Al-Muhsen Hospital 66722-9	Information 12
The Islamic, Abdali 665292	Jordan and Middle East calls 10
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164	Overseas calls 17
Al-Badr, J. Amman 77101-3	Cable or telegram 14
Al-Badr, J. Amman 77101-3	Repair services
Army, Marks 91611	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Issa Abu Haydar 37123	
MARKET PRICES	
Upperflower price in \$/kg	
Apple (double red) 250/200	Malwa 408/350
Apple (golden) 250/200	Marrow (large) 170/140
Apple (stark) 250/200	Marrow (small) 250/200
Banana 170/140	Onion (dry) 170/140
Banana (Muhassar) 240/210	Onion (green) 160/120
Beans 320/250	Onion (white) 160/120
Broad beans 600/550	Olives (green) 350/300
Cabbage 130/100	Oranges (Abu-Sara) 350/300
Carrot 120/90	Oranges (Shmeisani) 160/120
Cauliflower 160/130	Pears (American) 100/70
Cucumber (large) 200/160	Pepper (sweet) 150/120
Cucumber (small) 400/300	Pepper (hot green) 150/120
Eggplant (large) 100/80	Portonies 190/160
Eggplant (small) 150/120	Radishes 100/70
Garlic 180/150	Spinach 120/100
Grapes 700/500	Tomatoes 350/300
Grapefruit 120/90	Turkey 320/280
Lemon 100/70	

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION		FOREIGN CHANNEL	
MAIN CHANNEL			
10:00	Koran	18:00	French Programme
10:20	Cartoons	19:00	News in French
10:45	Scooby and Scrappy Dog	19:30	News in Hebrew
11:15	Children Programme	20:30	Comedy: Bloomers
12:15	Friday's Prayer	21:00	Science International
13:15	Documentary	21:30	Winneton
14:10	Soccer	22:00	News in English
15:00	Knight Rider	22:15	Remington Steele
15:30	Arabic Programme		
16:30	Arabic: Matrocolo		
19:30	Religious Programme		
20:00	News in Arabic		
20:30	Local Programme		
21:00	Arabic Series		
22:00	Arabic Variety Programme		
		RADIO JORDAN	
		852 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 5160 KHz. SW	
		07:00	Light Music
		07:30	Newsweek
		08:45	Morning Show
		10:00	News Summary

This cartoon was published in the Kuwaiti daily newspaper Al Qabar immediately after Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's controversial visit to Cairo in December 1983. In the cartoon Naji Al Ali satirically depicts the sharp division which the visit caused among the Palestinian people.

Jordan Times

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The arrogance of guns

THE UNITED Nations General Assembly has once again voted overwhelmingly for an international peace conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, and Israel has once again been quick off the mark to reject it. No doubt, now that Israel has spoken, the United States government will take its cue and will also Speak As The Master Has Spoken. We find it ironic that while the Arabs have made a significant shift, indeed, a historic shift, and have been openly calling for an international peace conference under United Nations auspices, the Israelis and Americans have consistently rejected this conciliatory Arab position. The Israelis insist that bilateral negotiations are the only way to peace. The United States government obediently nods its head, shuffles around mumbly incoherently about "peace processes", and the rest of the world holds its breath to see if the Middle East will explode yet again into warfare and violence.

The United States and Israel know that they have the upper hand for the moment in the Middle East, and can perpetuate the status quo for quite a while. But how long can military power dictate political realities? Have the Americans already forgotten the Vietnam years, when their arrogant and foolish reliance on sheer military power ultimately disintegrated into images of fleeing American diplomats airlifted by helicopters off their embassy roof? Have the Israelis forgotten the lessons of Sinai, when they swore never to relinquish their settlements and finally physically destroyed them?

Israel and its American echo are being short sighted in routinely refusing Arab offers to negotiate peace. The Americans naively talk about a "peace process" in the Middle East. Which peace process are they talking about? We don't see it.

The Arabs, with the support of most of the rest of the world, are asking to start a genuine, meaningful peace process, through an international conference to negotiate a final peace. Those who respond only with the arrogance of the gun are destined to live forever with their guns blazing.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Israel — roots of terrorism

U.S. SECRETARY of State George Shultz has stated that a military action which the United States might launch against sources of terrorism would win support from Western countries and would abort many terrorist actions in the future. This explains U.S. intention of launching an imminent aggression or a military invasion of some countries.

Terrorism should not be responded to with aggression and invasion; otherwise, terrorism will spread and chaos will prevail. When Shultz says that a military action will be backed by the West, it means that the East is the ground of terrorism and therefore it will be facing an aggression from the United States. This is irresponsible talk and can only create more tension and hatred.

The United States, which had been supporting Israel's actions, has never condemned Zionist acts of terror and aggression. It has never rebuked Israel for committing the Sabra and Shatila camps massacres, nor has it ever stopped supplying Israel with weapons to carry destruction and death to refugee camps and Arab towns in Palestine and South Lebanon.

If Washington wants to stop terrorism, it should first find the cause of terrorism: Israel, which has been launching terrorist attacks in all directions. Washington should blame itself for encouraging Israel to commit terrorist acts and crimes against the Arab Nation.

Al Dustour: Sad situation in Lebanon

IN THE light of almost daily fighting in the mountains around Beirut, and the escalation of artillery duels around the Lebanese capital, we can say that the warring factions are intent on destroying their own country. It is true that external forces are inciting some factions to pursue the fighting, but this does not absolve the warring groups themselves from the crime of killing one another and killing others too in the race for destroying Lebanon.

As the Lebanese government tries to deploy its forces in every part of Lebanon, and as the government continues to face Israeli intrusions at the Naqura talks, the warring factions are determined to make it difficult for Prime Minister Rashid Karami and his colleagues to re-establish stability and peace in the country.

So far, the Lebanese army has failed twice in attempts to deploy troops in the southern parts of the capital because it is confronted with artillery clashes and shelling that have been hitting residential areas, killing and wounding many people. The Lebanese factions are, through their fighting, proving to the world and to Israel that the army is incapable of preserving peace and security, and therefore it will never be able to safeguard peace near the border with Israel. This situation enhances Israel's demands at the Naqura talks that U.N. forces and Israeli-backed militia should be deployed instead to ensure that security can be maintained.

Sawt Al Shaab: Rationalising energy consumption

THE GOVERNMENT'S projects included in the coming five-year plan reflect its intention to go ahead with the process of development and construction. But this process should have the backing of all sectors of the public and must be supported in word and deed so that the projects can succeed. One of the obstacles in the way of progress is the increase in energy consumption which has recently reached 150 per cent. This situation requires a national programme for rationalising the consumption of all types of energy so that the country can save the money for something more useful.

The government would not doubt continue the drive to find oil or to develop shale oil as a source of energy, but in the meantime a national plan for rationalising energy consumption is much needed. The minister of energy and mineral wealth announced some measures to be adopted by the government immediately towards reducing energy consumption, and these measures should indeed be backed by the citizens to save the money for the treasury, which in turn will spend it on more useful services and on improving the income of the employees in general.

The government's keenness on developing agriculture requires financial support, and money that can be saved from energy can for instance be spent on developing the country's food production. On the whole, the government's plans will not succeed unless they acquire genuine interaction and backing from all citizens.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

U.S. military withdrawal from Lebanon productive

IT HAS been little more than a year now that the U.S. withdrew its Marines from Lebanon. That withdrawal was not just a tactical policy shift. It marked a major turning point in U.S. Middle Eastern policy. And it may have marked a major turning point in Middle Eastern history.

To understand why and how it was a turning point, we have to look at history. The British, who have long been involved in the Middle East, operated with one fundamental policy assumption: the Middle East is so fragmented that only one great and powerful empire can rule it. In 1918, the British decided that it was their turn to succeed the Ottoman Turks in that role. But by the mid-1960s, the British realised they could no longer carry the role. They secretly

informed the Americans they were considering pulling out. In 1968 they made their intention public. In 1971 they pulled their last forces out of the Gulf. Naturally, they handed on their imperial role to the Americans.

The Americans were reluctant to become involved but one argument seemed all-conquering: if the U.S. does not enter the Middle Eastern power vacuum, the Soviet empire will.

By 1971, Washington's worst fears seemed to be realised. British and French power had virtually vanished from the Middle East. And U.S. power was being undermined through the rise of OPEC. While American politicians eagerly applauded every military move by the Israelis, American generals

and diplomats were worried that every Israeli victory on some battlefield only cleared the way for the Soviet Union to come into the Middle East like a bear stealing quietly through the night-darkened forest.

So all during the 1970's, Washington schemed and manoeuvred to get U.S. military power in the Middle East to fill the power vacuum created by the final departure of the British: U.S. naval manoeuvres in the Arabian sea, military agreements with the Emirates and Saudi Arabia, arming of Jordan, a new alliance with Egypt, Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) and so on.

Then came the Iranian Revolution. Washington strategists were convinced that Iran could go Communist. Wasn't the Ira-

nian Communist Party, the Tudeh, working hand-in-glove with Khomeini? U.S. moves to get more military power into the Middle East intensified. The Israeli invasion of Lebanon terrified the generals and the diplomats.

At that time it seemed as if Iran might emerge as the victor over Iraq. There was talk of an alliance of Iran-Syria-Libya which would squeeze the "moderate" Arab states from one side while Israel squeezed them from the other. Suddenly the U.S. began to look with a less hostile eye at Iraq. And it began to intensify pressure against Col. Qadhafi. The Israelis were furious. They wanted just such a line up — a Libyan-Syrian-Iranian alliance backed by Russia would have resulted in a real (and not threadbare)

U.S. — Israeli strategic alliance. And, in between we would have seen a neutralised Egypt, a beaten-down Iraq, a Lebanon ruled by an Israeli puppet regime, and a paralysed Jordan.

Despite all the hypocrisy, double-dealing, timidity in Washington, in the end the generals and diplomats prevailed and the U.S. continued to put some of its cards on the "moderates". The U.S.-Iraq relationship began to grow; Egypt began slowly but gradually to free itself from the Camp David paralysis; and finally the U.S. began to allow Syria to play a key role in Lebanon.

When Mr. Reagan decided to withdraw the troops from Beirut, he in effect abandoned the old British notion that in-

evitably some great power would rule the Middle East. The Soviets have lost, not gained influence. Khomeini has not swept over the Middle East like some Islamic Napoleon. Nor have the Israelis been able to realise their ambition of a "Greater Israel."

The Libya-Syria-Iran line-up is a mirage. Israel is beginning to show signs of rot in its foundations. And the "moderate" Arab states, despite all their problems, are beginning to look better. We shall see whether in the coming years new forces from Iraq to Morocco can succeed in making something of the "Arabic Nation" which all the talking, posturing, and tragic fighting of earlier years never was able to do.

Will Gorbachev's London visit open new chapter?

Mikhail Gorbachev, widely held to be the Soviet leader second in command, will be in London. Frank Giles, former editor of The Sunday Times, just back from the Soviet Union, reports.

I FOUND abundant friendliness and warmth on all sides. But that does not alter the fact that a massive wall of mistrust still stands between the Soviet Union and the West. Could the meeting in Geneva in January between the American secretary of state, George Shultz, and the Soviet Foreign minister, Gromyko, be the beginning of a new and happier chapter, paving the way towards a more fruitful approach to arms control and a halt in the gruesome continuation of the arms race? Anything is possible, but judging from what I heard in Moscow and Leningrad last week, the auguries are not good. The megaphone diplomacy of recent years, practised by both sides, has left an ominous legacy.

On arms control, the Russians have convinced themselves not only that the Reagan administration bears all the responsibility for the arms race, above all for its introduction of the "star wars" idea which would fill outer space with nuclear horrors; they also argue, seemingly with total conviction, that the installation of cruise and Pershing missiles in Western Europe was not the response to their deployment of SS20 missiles but was a deliberate attempt to disturb the

nuclear balance which, they claim, had previously existed. By Western calculations, this is utter nonsense.

Prolonged bouts of nuclear arithmetic are not merely exhausting, they are also, as I soon found out, completely fruitless. There may be some formula for reconciling the contradictory estimates of each side about the other's nuclear strength. But it was certainly not apparent in Moscow last week. Without it, both sides are talking, as they have talked in the past, from entirely different premises. What emerges, with extreme clarity, is that Moscow is never, whatever the cost, going to accept nuclear inferiority.

Two factors could afford some hope. First, although the Russians would never admit it, they have suffered, and the leadership must know it has suffered, a major defeat over the cruise and Pershing deployment. Despite their strenuous efforts, the programme has gone forward. The removal of the missiles used to be a condition for the resumption of talks about intermediate nuclear weapons. Evidently it is so no longer. Soviet realism, fortunately a constant element in Moscow's policymaking, is still there.

Secondly, although the Rus-



M. Gorbachev

not achieve this all on their own terms are so apparently adamant that they bear no blame for the arms race, they must know — I certainly took every occasion to point it out to the people I talked to — that no parties to a dispute are ever 100 per cent right or 100 per cent wrong. If they genuinely want a slowing down in the arms race, a reduction in the level of nuclear armaments and a moratorium on star wars, they will have to make concessions, agree to cuts in levels and be ready to accept measures of physical verification. The West will also have to make concessions. There is no sincerity, to my mind, about the Soviet wish to see the threat of nuclear destruction diminished, preferably lifted altogether. What they have yet to learn, or be told by their leaders, is that they can-

terms. This of course is where the wall of mistrust is so formidable an obstacle. I got into a fearsome argument in Leningrad with a group of editors and academics. I had been talking about the duties of the press and the media in general in keeping public opinion informed. A professor of sociology responded that the British press, by giving a consistently unfavourable version of life in the Soviet Union, easily induced ignorant members of the British public to think likewise.

"When I was in a pub in Manchester not long ago," he said, "some perfectly respectable citizens, learning that I was from Russia, informed me that there was no democracy in my country. I asked them what they knew of the system of Soviet democracy. They knew absolutely nothing. What sort of public opinion, informed by what sort of press, is that?"

Human rights proved another, and familiar, battleground.

The same group argued that the constant references in the Western press to the Sakharov case were simply anti-Soviet propaganda. "Sakharov and other dissidents don't count for anything here." (Another, exceptionally well-informed, Russian source in Moscow, by no means an admirer of the regime, asserted that the dissident movement, such as it was, is now finished.) "Why

doesn't your press write something about a really important Soviet achievement, such as the completion of the new trans-Siberian railway?"

Reminders that in the West individual rights and freedoms are rated very highly were met with the objection that an unemployed man in Britain could not derive much, if any, satisfaction from being able to shout with impunity, "Down with the Queen" in front of Buckingham Palace; what he wanted and should have a right to was a job.

So it went on, two worlds apart, two systems and sets of values apparently destined forever to be at odds. Sometimes the sheer chaos of Soviet arguments took the breath away.

One senior official regretted the state of stagnation that had characterised East-West relations in recent years. He reminded him that this was because of Afghanistan. "We never proposed any reduction of East-West contacts or boycott of visits," was the reply, followed by the claim that the Soviet Union had only gone into Afghanistan by invitation. (That, and the need to ensure the security of the Afghanistan-USSR frontier, is a widely-heard justification for the enterprise. If there are doubts or regrets, they are certainly not voiced to foreigners.)

Yet beneath all this virulence

and distortion, there is discernible a real wish for better understanding with, and by, the West, an endearing reaching out of hands, a puzzled bewilderment that human beings who share a common interest in the future well-being of their country, their children and grandchildren, have been unable to agree on lowering the thresholds of danger. A profound and genuine fear fills the Russian mind.

Perhaps the most encouraging remark came from a senior man in one of the many institutes in Moscow concerned with international affairs. There is no point, he said, in one side trying to "convert" the other to its system and philosophy. (This is surely right. The main lines of Soviet policy, whoever rules in the Kremlin, are not going to change.) What would be far more realistic, said my interlocutor, would be to try to "manage our differences", to agree on the need for "certain ground rules" which should govern normal relationships between states. Here, in contrast to all the ideological prattle and special pleading, was the voice of reason and common sense. These are qualities that both sides in the great East-West divide, as they approach the next and crucial phase of negotiation, should be seeking to cultivate. Without them, the prospect is likely to be bleak — The Sunday Times.



French minister prepares for calamities

By Gavin Bell
Reuter

PARIS — When French government minister Haroun Tazieff arrives at his office on the left bank of the Seine in Paris, all he thinks about is death and destruction.

While colleagues in the adjacent Foreign Trade Ministry wrestle with more mundane problems, he calculates the odds of an earthquake bringing the building crashing down around them.

Mr. Tazieff, a geologist and renowned authority on volcanoes, was invested last July with a unique mission as secretary of state for the prevention of major natural and technological disasters.

His brief is to advise Prime Minister Laurent Fabius on the prospects of disasters ranging from volcanic eruptions to explosions at nuclear power plants, and on what should be done to guard against them.

According to the 70-year-old scientist, who has spent a lifetime touring the planet's most desolate and hostile regions, France is dangerously ill-prepared for a natural or technological disaster — and it is not alone.

"At the moment I would say that not a single country in the world is organised the way it could be, the way it should be, to deal

with a major catastrophe," he told Reuters.

Recent devastating explosions at an oil refinery in Mexico and a leak of toxic gas from a chemical plant in India provided grim reminders of the risks facing unprepared populations.

"Such things could happen in France tonight... we have been lucky so far," Mr. Tazieff said. In a recent report, he cited a huge exercise in the Vosges region of eastern France last December as an example of the failure of rescue services to coordinate effectively in an emergency.

"At this level of complexity, the organisation of rescue services is identical to a military operation. Fortunately it was only an exercise, because in reality the war would have been lost," Mr. Tazieff said.

The main reason was rivalry between separate services which occasionally flared into open conflict, he said.

At the top of his danger list are earthquakes, which he terms the rarest but most terrifying of natural disasters in France, and flooding which poses the most common threat.

"The occurrence of major, destructive earthquakes in France should be considered very seriously. The last one was in 1909,

and at the current average rate of four every 100 years, there is a strong possibility of one or two before the end of this century," he said.

He said a tremor at Liege, Belgium in November 1983, which killed two people and injured 200, should be taken as an alarm signal in France where several regions were more susceptible to such phenomena.

"For an earth tremor the rule, with very rare exceptions, is no warning at all. Therefore we must act as quickly as possible to minimise the casualties," he said.

Mr. Tazieff said his priority was to ensure new buildings were constructed to withstand as far as possible the effects of a tremor, and that existing hospitals, schools and other public buildings were reinforced.

An automatic early-warning system was urgently required to limit damage of flooding, which threatened almost two million people in France, he said. Abnormally heavy rainfall in spring last year inundated 33 regions, causing 29 deaths and damage estimated at more than two billion francs (\$200 million).

Mr. Tazieff's other major concerns include forest fires which ravaged some 50,000 hectares of France last year, and avalanches

for which the country holds the world record — 28 during the winter of 1982-83, causing 36 deaths.

A less likely but spectacular possibility of disaster lies dormant in the hills of the Auvergne. France's volcano belt. The volcanoes have been inactive for 2,000 years, but Mr. Tazieff reckons they could blow up again at any time. He says one erupted in Iceland in 1973 after being dormant for 5,000 years.

"Two thousand years is a very short time in the history of volcanology. Geologically it is quasi-certain that there will be eruptions in the Auvergne. It might not happen for another 2,000 years, but equally it could happen next year," he said.

Mr. Tazieff reckons that proper precautions could reduce the human and material losses of a disaster by up to 10,000 times.

The problem is that investments of this nature are not politically attractive. If a government does provide funds, it is unlikely to be congratulated if disaster strikes although casualties are reduced — and if nothing happens it faces criticism for wasteful expenditure," he said.

Another inhibiting factor in many countries is that over the years disasters have claimed relatively few victims.

Hitler lost ordinary Germans' support with closing defeat

By Hans-Ulrich Joerges
Reuter

MUNICH — Newly-published documents of the intelligence branch of Hitler's SS show the support of ordinary Germans for the Nazi leadership steadily declining as defeat in World War II loomed closer.

The stormtroopers of the SS are best known as the black-uniformed agents of Hitler's extermination policies. They also played a lesser-known role as monitors of public opinion for the Nazi leadership.

Around 30,000 members of the intelligence service of the SS were employed to eavesdrop on conversations of ordinary Germans between 1938 and 1945.

Their confidential reports were distributed to Nazi government ministers and party leaders, often to Hitler himself. They have now been published in full by the Pawlak Company and the West German Federal Archives in 17 volumes.

A month after war broke out, a report dated Oct. 11, 1939 said people had been holding festive gatherings in some Berlin streets and squares after rumours of ceasefire with Britain.

But after German victories in France and Scandinavia the following year the Nazi government reached the high point of its popularity, with the population firmly behind the war.

"Under the spell of military successes, the entire German race has created a bond between the front and the population never achieved before," the SS intelligence service reported on June 24, 1940.

A year later, the service reported that people had taken the German declaration of war on the Soviet Union with "a certain bewilderment". The two countries had signed a non-aggression treaty in 1939.

The defeat of the German Sixth Army at Stalingrad at the beginning of 1943 marked a turning point in the war.

battle in Stalingrad caused a deep feeling of shock in the whole people... unstable comrades saw the beginning of the end," a report of Feb. 4, 1943, said.

On Nov. 22, 1943, the intelligence service was reporting a "deep longing for peace" among the people, who were discussing "peace at any price, or a compromise peace".

At this stage only a small proportion of the people believed in the final victory of the German cause, the intelligence service reported.

The same month, reports appeared for the first time suggesting less than total faith in the leadership and mentioning complaints about corruption.

When the Western allies invaded Normandy in the summer of 1944, the intelligence service reported "lingering voices of panic".

The director of the Federal Archives, Heinz Boberach, said the Putsch attempt of July 20, 1944, would have been successful if Hitler had been killed as the reports show that he was the only member of the leadership in whom the public retained trust.

Even this faith was not to last for long. "Wonder weapons" that would turn the tide in favour of the Nazis failed to appear and in 1945 the intelligence service reported for the first time: "The doubt in the leadership does not exclude the Fuehrer himself."

In 1944, the Nazi leadership had stopped the reports, which until then had been twice weekly, complaining that they contained nothing but defeatist comments. Only occasional reports, limited to the defeat of Germany in 1945.

An anti-Jewish propaganda film received "an extraordinarily favourable reception" from the German public, according to a report of Nov. 26, 1944.

For most people, however, another intelligence report of a speedy "deratification" of all from Germany will be welcomed.

THE LITERARY CORNER

Ibrahim Nasrallah lives in the city and hates it

IBRAHIM NASRALLAH, the Jordanian poet, was best introduced by Dr. Abdul Rahman Yaghi, the Modern Literature professor at the University of Jordan, who maintained in Al-Rai daily on Nov. 25, 1980 that "it is a good thing that the lad be a poet and the poet be a lad." Ibrahim Nasrallah, then, is a young poet who could quickly and yet justifiably gain a wide reputation both in Jordan and the Arab World. The young poet is among a few Jordanian poets whose works embraced an almost unanimous tradition in the Jordanian and Arab dailies and magazines.

The poet was born in Amman in 1954 and studied at UNRWA schools. He acquired a two-year teaching diploma from the Amman Training Centre, followed by two years of teaching in Saudi Arabia (an experience which inspired him to prepare for a novel entitled "The Prayers of Fever." Nasrallah now works as a journalist at Sawt Al-Sha'b daily in Jordan.

Ibrahim Nasrallah, who started his literary life by writing colloquial poetry, wrote the following poetical collections: "My Body Was the Sieve" (1978), "Horses on the Threshold of the City" (1980), "Rain inside" (1982), "Songs of the Morning" (1984), "The Last Dialogue — Few Moments Before the Death of the Bird" (1984), in addition to a collection of verses for children.

Although the issue of time occupies a spacious room in Nasrallah's poetry — a rich and attractive topic to write about, the poet's stand towards the city occupies yet a more spacious room, which is more tempting to handle in today's corner.

The young poet simply hates the city, a matter which he states very plainly in his poetry:

I love not the city:
But, I'd share the secret with you.
I know it.
Now I descend towards the sand of the wound:
I search for you
To beseege it.

In another instance, he states that cities are assassins:
When the cities of the world passed by
Assassins... assassins
He even maintains that the city is not his:
Oh! Ye unchaste rose!
Not once were you ours,
You were for silence
For death
For assassins.

The poet rhetorically questions his people's share in the city:
— What is there for us from the sums of the city?
— Darkness of our sadness in the factories!
— What is there for us from the space of the city?
— Bitterness and the streets agony!
— What is there for us from the edifices of the city?
— A cemetery, exodus, and a port!
— Let us start!
— Let us start!

He condemns the city which is built on his remnants, and yet he

arrives at some kind of compromise with it:
The purple man enters his ribs and rests on the breast of the
sea mistress for a while
Soaked with rain wishes,
He wakes up to find his feet plunged
into the sand down to its smile

The purple man carries his fragments.
He regains the city
Crawls on her breast
Bleeding, he stands on his ashes
The city is wide open
It does not close her doors.

Sir! Do you live here?
Perhaps.
Do you love the place?
A dream... and blood.

On the other hand, the city-hater's apprehensions are manifested in other forms and conceptions (paradoxical at times). The poet achieves the oneness of the cities; he sometimes unites them positively (as parts of the one body):

A root extends in Beirut
Another in Gaza
And Amman grows in the blood.

Fatima bears her patience on her forehead
Bathes in the waters of the Euphrates
Takes refuge in the waist of the Nile
Roams the desert sand, comparing
Between her stature and the palm trees
Writing her sorrows in the streets of Amman
The sorrows echo in Galilee
And when she searches for her day
And when she searches for her bread
And when she searches for her sun
The place narrows
The place narrows
"A lark in the heart for Gaza,
And two for Amman."
At other times, cities unite to do evil.
This city, Oh!
They say "tis one.

And this city, Oh!

The Lad poet

They say 'tis just.

And this city, Oh!
They say 'tis wide.

The cities are terribly daemonic:
Cities are the same as famine
Or as the eyes of the informer.
It is worth noting, however, that the poet identifies himself with Amman, the good and poor people, not Amman; the surfeited people:

Amman has the colour of my wounds
The colour of my yearning
The colour of that who still wears me
Soil and water.

Nasrallah's frequent reference to the daemonic city (almost in every poem) paradoxically reminds me of (the Iraqi poet) Badr Shaker Al-Sayyab's rain which embodies good. This in fact raises an important question: Why is Nasrallah haunted with such hatred for the city? Does he hate it because he belongs to a poor neighbourhood? Or does he unconsciously love it, but tries to assuage it to cover up for a hidden sense of guilt emanating from fear of having unconsciously substituted it for his usurped city in Palestine? And if this is really the case, why doesn't he refer to the villages and towns of Palestine? Or doesn't he realise the daemonic nature of the city anywhere, any time? And if cities in the usurped land are that sacred (possibly due to the resistance spirit prevailing in them), why would Gaza enjoy the lion's share alone?

Gaza's sea is calm
Water and sails
The blueness and the wide morning
And a window for the seagulls.

I agree with the poet that the twentieth century city can be cruel and detestable at times, but not to the exaggerated extent the poet portrayed. The overwhelming presence of the city in Nasrallah's poetry does help glorify it rather than condemn it, which ironically defeats the poet's purpose. I venture to say that the city really haunted the poet, a matter which he should avoid and try to look for the real enemies instead.

Nasrallah's poetry is simple and brilliant in its own right. He is to be commended for his excellent choice of iambic, words, music and rhyme — a hard currency these days.

"It is a good thing that the lad be a poet, and the poet be a lad," but it is even better that the poet sustains maturity in poetry, and a burning spirit in youth and old age alike.

— Ahmad Jaber

Randa Habib's Corner

Hijack may be rewarded

WITH TIME everything grows including hijacking. Things have changed from the time airplanes were hijacked to go to Cuba to the last hijacking of Kuwait Airways. The Kuwait plane grounded for six days at Tehran Airport is the beginning of a new era in air piracy. Not only because it was the longest hijacking ever seen nor because it was the "bloodiest" but because of the circumstances of the event. We followed hour after hour, day after day, the calvary of passengers, the pressure made on Kuwait to release certain criminals (who undoubtedly are pals of the four air pirates following the same ideology and style), the cold blooded murders, the corpses thrown overboard... to arrive finally at the conclusion, so simple in fact: The Iranians assaulted, nothing happened, no wounds, and the four "ideologists" went out, their hands on their heads. Everything is over in a few seconds and one wonders why this had not been tried before.

We have of course heard the encouragements and support messages of some terrorist organisations praising the "heroic" deeds of the pirates. This is why we should expect a recurrence of this event, more bloody maybe, to break the record already reached. We live in a beautiful world which a group of madmen has decided to turn into hell. What is terrible is that they are succeeding. It would be interesting however to watch the four pirates now. Their pals, who had hijacked the Air France plane to Tehran have been seen driving Mercedes cars... how will those pirates be rewarded, while the families of innocent people are grieving for their dead? We might know this soon.

Aramaic still spoken in Syrian village

By G.G. Labelle
Associated Press

MAALULA, Syria — The rhythm is familiar but the words are not. It is the lord's prayer being recited in Aramaic, the language spoken by Jesus Christ nearly 2,000 years ago.

Some reference books call it a "dead language," but in this village clinging to a weathered limestone mountain, and in the surrounding area, Aramaic is still spoken on the streets.

Father Michel Zaroura, head of the Mar Sarkis monastery here, said that while in most places the language disappeared about 270 A.D., it somehow hung on in Maalula.

"The village was an important religious centre at the time," the priest explained.

In addition to religion, there are other apparent reasons why the language, less guttural than the Arabic also spoken here, would manage to survive in Maalula.

Though only about 50 kilometers north of Damascus, the village seems a world apart. Off a main highway rising through dusty, brown hills a valley green with fields and trees suddenly appears.

The valley leads to Maalula, whose houses rise up the limestone rockface so precipitously they seem almost piled atop one another. Some of the houses are stucco painted a light blue which, set among white-stucco houses and others of rough stone, give the village almost a mosaic appearance.

The oldest houses, Father Zaroura said, are built into caves belied inhabited by man as early as the 10th Century B.C.

In addition to Father Zaroura's monastery, Maalula is home to the convent of St. Tekla, and the priest related a legend about the saint and how the village got its name.

Father Zaroura said that Tekla, a student of St. Paul, was being persecuted by her father for having converted to Christianity from Paganism. She tried to flee but ran into the limestone mountain Maalula is built against. Suddenly an opening appeared in the mountain and she made her escape.

Maalula means "entrance" in Aramaic.

The convent of St. Tekla is partly built into a cave, and Father Zaroura said the building dated to the first century. Water drips from the cave into a small trough, which has a cup attached to it by a small chain.

The water is said to have healing properties. Father Zaroura said. The priest said his own monastery, named for Mar Sarkis, or St. Sergius in English, was built in the fourth century. Mar Sarkis was a Syrian serving as a Roman soldier who was tortured and executed near the end of the third century when it was learned he had secretly converted to Christianity. Father Zaroura said.

He added that the monastery's site was believed to be that of a pagan temple earlier and that wood from one door in the monastery was tested and found to be 3,000 years old.

Most of the building's doors are only about four feet high, said to be so built both to give the monks humility and as a defence against invaders.

The monastery church, built in the shape of a Greek cross, has walls of rough stone and a dome that is white stucco inside. Dusty crystal chandeliers with electric bulbs illuminate gold painted icons and crosses inlaid with various woods and mother of pearl.

Father Zaroura walked from one icon to another, dismissing some as new, describing others as "very old, very valuable."

Later, as he explained the Mar Sarkis' history, he served tiny glasses of a dark red, very sweet wine made at the monastery.

The only Western language Father Zaroura speaks is French. But he showed off tapes he had made of a brief lecture in more than half a dozen languages — among them, English, Hungarian, and Russian.

He said he wrote out a script in Arabic, then with the help of native speakers, painstakingly memorized in each language his short history of Maalula and Aramaic.

The ancient language was spoken throughout southwest Asia from about 900 B.C. until the end of the 3rd Century A.D. The biblical books of Daniel and Ezra were originally written in it, and Father Zaroura's tapes feature an Aramaic recitation of the Lord's prayer.

Sartre filled 'boring' war months with creating worlds

WAR DIARIES: Notebooks from a Phoney War, November 1939-March 1940, by Jean Paul Sartre, translated to English by Quinon Hoare.

THE MONTHS Sartre spent stationed with a meteorological observation team in Alsace during the anxious tedium of the phoney war were the most frenzied bout of creativity in his life: besides 14 philosophical notebooks, crammed with the early drafts of Being and Nothingness (1943), there were a daily flood of letters to his mother, to Simone de Beauvoir and to his lover "Tania" and the first draft of his novel The Age of Reason. In all, a total of one million words. If genius has any defining attribute, it must be immense physical energy.

Some works of genius are achieved by a nearly fanatical narrowing of the faculties, a sharpening of the brain's focus in order to burn holes through problems which demand more expansive minds. Sartre's genius was the reverse: a protean talent for inclusion, for making the whole range of his experience the material for sustained reflection.

These notebooks, written expressly for posthumous publication, reflect Sartre's intense awareness that the coming of the war required a moment of truth, a summing up of his passage from youth

to maturity. Until the war, he wrote: "I believed myself sovereign; I had to encounter the negation of my own freedom — through being mobilised — in order to become aware of the weight of the world and my links with all those other fellows and their links with me."

If war turned an anti-bourgeois Montparnasse individual into a social being, one wonders what his fellow social beings in the army camp made of this nervous little man with thick glasses who wrote late into the night after they were all asleep, and who displayed such strange relentlessness in barracks-room argument.

Rarely has the *mise en scene* of philosophical invention been more dramatically evoked. We see a philosophy taking shape at a quiet table in the midst of the lunchtime bustle of the Taverne de l'Ecrivain, amidst the sound of caroming billiard balls in a requisitioned cinema full of conscripts; and most of all, late at night, when Sartre's most abstruse ruminations were apt to be brought to a halt by a room-mate shouting in his sleep.

On all this distraction, Sartre



BOOK REVIEW

turned a novelist's eye. Some of the keenest pleasures in these diaries are the incidental observations: the way a fellow soldier compulsively licks his lips; the way a certain sumptuous blonde at the next table reads a red meat sandwich between her teeth; the way soldiers returning from leave kiss their girlfriends at the station.

The phoney war — like all murky moments on the eve of cataclysm — provided Sartre with copious evidence of the human capacity for cheerful self-delusion. As Finland falls before

the Soviet army, Sartre hears an English officer remark brightly to his Alsatian landlady: "The war is over, my dear Madam. But the public mustn't know."

The strange five-month lull before the storm also revealed the abstract and unreal character of the national hatreds which were soon to have France and Germany at each other's throats. The same soldiers who in May 1940 were killing each other, in February 1940 were peacefully spying on each other with fieldglasses and hoisting cheeky placards of greeting.

For Sartre these were only the outward absurdities of war. The inward effects of the war were what occupied him: the sense that the pause before the deluge offered him a unique moment for an *examen de conscience*. The richest parts of the diary are those in which Sartre the autobiographical moralist models himself after the great French masters of the art: Pascal, Montaigne and Gide. From adolescence, he records, he was obsessed with the idea of living a great life. The diary unsparingly lays out the shocks his ambition suffered in his twenties:

"What I did dimly sense was that one can't take a point of view

on one's life while one's living it: it comes on you from behind, and you find yourself up to your neck. And yet if you look around, you realise you're responsible for what you have lived and that it's beyond repair. I felt I was deeply committed to a path which was growing narrower and narrower. I felt that at every step I was losing one of my possibilities as a person loses his hair... In short I took the transition to manhood as badly as possible.

His success at the Ecole Normale and the publication of *Le Nausee* gave him everything he wanted in his early thirties, and yet every time he was disappointed: because he could not be sure that each success would actually lead, in the end, to a "great life": "I'd wished every event to befall me as in a biography: in other words, as when the story's end is already known."

Typical of Sartre's thoroughness and ingenuity in self-examination is a long passage on his peculiar indifference to material things: "I lose pens and pipes: I don't grow attached to them. They're exiles in my hands and live in an atmosphere hardly any more intimate than the cold light which bathed them... in the

shop window."

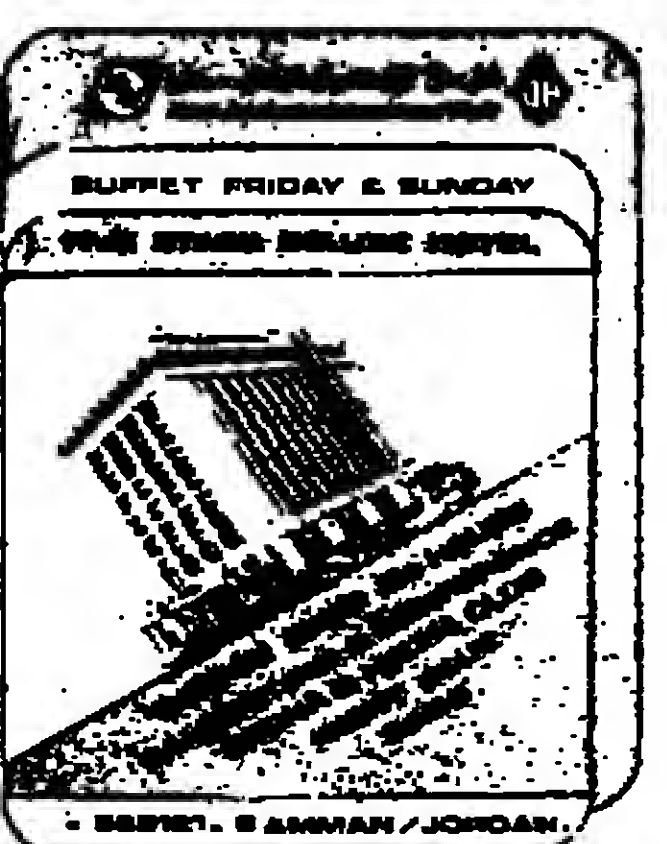
This asceticism he attributes to the fact that his parents were public servants, who derived their income from the state rather than from commerce.

Ultimately, however, this historical examination of his character cedes to the philosophical. His asceticism, he concludes, is "metaphysical pride: I'm sufficient unto myself, in the nihilating solitude of the for-itself." From the humble detail of his attitude to pens and pipes, through history to metaphysics, this example shows the Sartrean autobiographical method at work and, incidentally, lays out the origins of that asceticism towards property which informs his later Marxism.

Like all great solitaires, all coldly self-sufficient writers who pour themselves out in books, Sartre passionately needed both the immediate comradeship of Simone de Beauvoir, but also a less proximate audience: his readers. He poured himself out for us because he needed us to ground his life in authenticity, and in turning the bright beam of his intelligence upon his own solitary life, he lights up the disavowed secrets of our own — Le Monde.

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Mayotte heads ousted seeds in NSW open

SYDNEY (R) — Number two seed Tim Mayotte of the United States led a dismal procession of five of the top eight seeds out of the New South Wales (NSW) men's open tennis championship here Wednesday.

Mayotte, 24, a grasscourt specialist and Wimbledon semifinalist in 1982, lost 4-6, 7-6, 7-5 to tall Californian Hank Pfister, who recently considered retiring after a run of first round losses.

Pfister, ranked 116th in the world against Mayotte's 19th, refused to allow his opponent, who served for the match at 5-4 in the second set, to dictate terms in their second round duel.

"I was able to keep scrapping, to give him garbage balls, and that kept me in the match," Pfister said. "I made him work."

Pfister, 31, won no matches between April and August this year and considered retirement as his ranking dropped to 165th.

"I wasn't going to play in qualifying events. I'm too stubborn for that," he admitted Wednesday.

Fourth seed John Lloyd of Bri-

tain, number five Mike Bauer of the United States, Czechoslovak seventh seed Miloslav Mecir and eighth-seeded Frenchman Guy Forget were also out of luck on the tournament's first day to be unaffected by rain.

Lloyd was on the wrong end of the most one-sided of the seeds' results, beaten 6-2, 6-1 by Texan baseliner Sammy Giammalva. But more humiliating still were the defeats of Bauer and Forget, who lost to Americans who had played through the qualifying tournament.

Bauer, last year's losing finalist, was beaten 6-3, 4-6, 6-0 by 21-year-old Ken Flach, while Forget, who was troubled by a nosebleed at the end of the match, went out 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 to Tom Cain.

Mecir fell victim 6-3, 7-5 to up-and-coming Australian Peter Doohan, 23.

Youth organisation to host Japanese martial arts team

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Youth Welfare Organisation (JYWO) has agreed to host the Japanese Aikido team to give various performances on Dec. 23 at Al Hussein Youth City and on Dec. 26 at Yarmouk University. The JYWO has also provided the World Club in Kuwait with the directory of youth centres in Jordan. This came upon request from the club and its willingness to establish cooperation between the two countries.

Jordan to take part in Arab tennis

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Jordan Tennis Federation Dr. Muwaffaq Al Fawwaz Al Zu'bi said that the federation will take part in the Arab Tennis Championship for youths. The championship will be organised by the Arab Tennis Federation and will start on Feb. 5 in Iraq.



PRINCE RECEIVES TAE KWAN DO TEAM: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, received at his office Wednesday morning the national Jordanian Tae Kwan Do team

and congratulated them on their achievements in the recent Asian Tae Kwan Do tournament held in the Philippines in which the Jordanian team scored several victories.

Florentina manager says he quit rather than share job

FLORENCE, Italy (R) — Giancarlo de Sisti said Wednesday he had quit as manager of Italian first division soccer club Fiorentina rather than share the job.

De Sisti was speaking after the announcement that Ferruccio Valcareggi, 65, would take over as manager until the end of the season. His first game will be Fiorentina's home league match against Juventus on Sunday.

De Sisti, criticised for Fiorentina's indifferent league form and a humiliating defeat by Anderlecht of Belgium in the UEFA Cup, said the last straw was when Dynamo Kiev of the Soviet Union beat the Italians 5-0 in a friendly last Sunday.

He said he decided to step down Tuesday night after Fiorentina president Raniero Pontello and his father, Count Flavio Pontello who owns a majority stake in the club, had proposed hiring Valcareggi as co-manager.

"I have nothing against Valcareggi personally but I could not accept a proposal of that kind. I believe I should be free to make my own mistakes if necessary," de Sisti told a news conference in Florence.

Italian newspapers have speculated that Argentine Cesar Luis Menotti may become the club manager next season.

Hagler to be reinstated by WBC

MEXICO CITY (R) — Former World Boxing Council (WBC) middleweight champion Marvin Hagler of the United States will be reinstated on Thursday in New York, WBC officials said Tuesday.

Hagler was stripped of his title for refusing to obey a WBC rule that fights should last only 12 rounds. Since then he has said he will abide by the rule and has asked the WBC to reinstate him.

The officials said all 23 bodies affiliated to the WBC had been asked to vote on the matter and although some votes were still to come the majority were in favour of reinstatement.

The official decision will be announced at a news conference at which the WBC will also reveal its position on a proposed fight between Hagler, middleweight champion of the rival World Boxing Association, and his compatriot WBC super-welterweight champion Thomas Hearns.

Coetzee threatens court action

JOHANNESBURG (R) — De-throned heavyweight boxing champion Gerrie Coetzee of South Africa said Wednesday he would begin court proceedings if necessary to have his defeat by American Greg Page declared invalid.

Coetzee was knocked out by Page in the eighth round of his World Boxing Association (WBA) heavyweight title defence in Sun City earlier this month. But a television recording of the fight has shown the South African was knocked out 48 seconds after the bell should have sounded to end the three-minute round.

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French boxer shrugs off disqualification protests

PARIS (R) — French boxer Louis Acaries, controversial conqueror of former world champion Davey Moore here Tuesday, Wednesday dismissed the American's protests over his disqualification for landing a punch after the bell.

"He can say what he likes but it wasn't me who struck after the round," Acaries said of the right which dropped him to the canvas after the bell had ended the ninth round of their World Boxing Association (WBA) junior-middleweight title eliminator.

Moore accused Acaries of cheating and play-acting. He said he had no time to hold back the blow which put the former European super-welterweight and middleweight champion in line for a shot at Jamaican Mike McCallum's WBA title.

"You can't know how much I regret this outcome. I was stunned by Davey Moore's punch and that's why I fell. But I wasn't knocked out. I recovered very fast. I wanted to resume the fight," Acaries said.

"I'm convinced I had the means to beat Davey Moore inside the distance. If Moore hit me after the bell, it was because he was unnerved by my resistance."

Acaries said Moore was "very stretched by the end of the ninth

round and sought safety in this irregularity," but added: "That doesn't stop me feeling frustrated."

He said it made no difference that he was behind on points for at least one judge. "The fight was going to be decided in the last three rounds, and victory was mine for the taking. I proved to Davey Moore that I had as much class as him. I proved to myself I'm worthy to contest a world championship," he said.

Michel Acaries, the Frenchman's promoter-brother, said McCallum had agreed before Monday night's fight in the Bercy Sports Palace to give Acaries a title-shot in Paris if he won.

"The bout could be staged at Bercy in February or March next year. But if the agreement gets drawn out and takes us into May or June, we could envisage Monaco. In that case I would like Louis to go to the U.S. for one or two fights. In the first instance, he would go straight from Moore to McCallum," he said.

Louis Acaries said: "McCallum is a better boxer than Moore, but I don't think he has the same resistance. That's why, if I can fight like I did against Davey Moore, I think I have a good chance of being world champion."

THE Daily Crossword

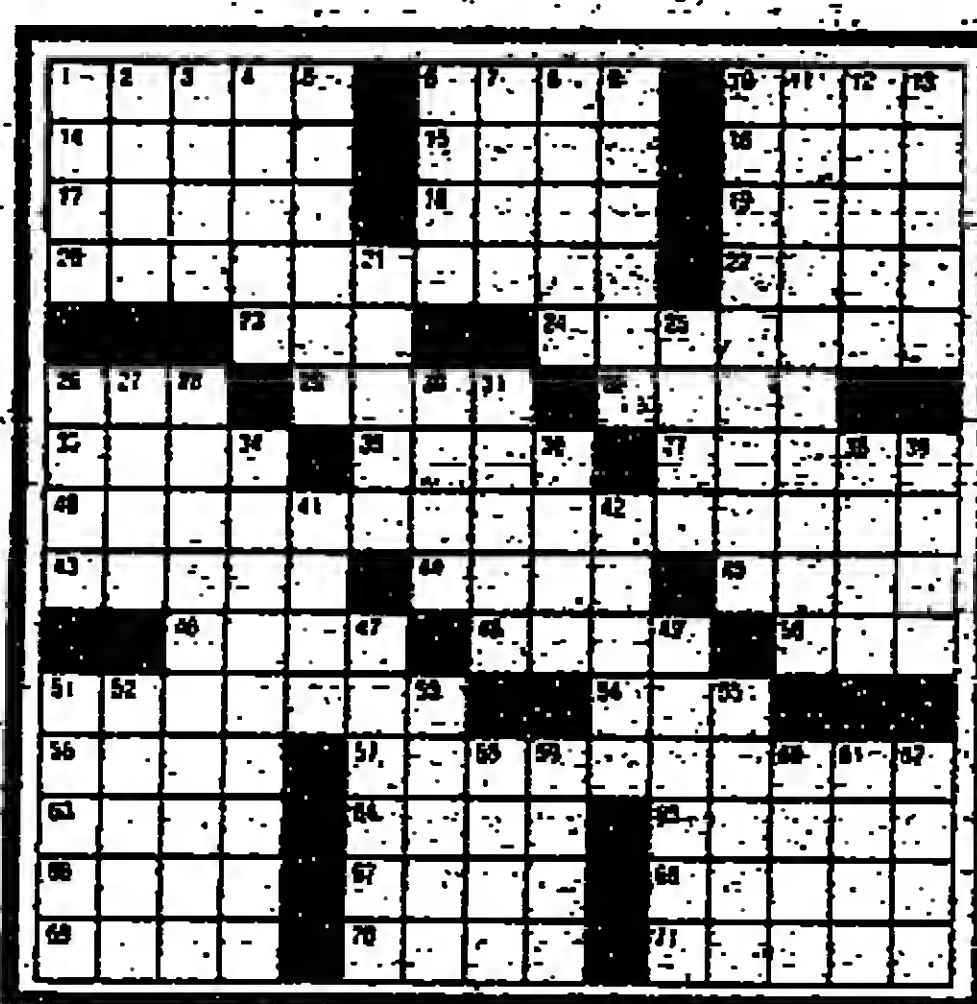
by Olive Dunn

ACROSS

- 1 Obstruct
- 6 Scary
- 10 Fragment
- 14 Lobster claw
- 15 Pilester
- 16 — five
- 17 Ascended
- 18 Sacred image
- 19 Brink
- 20 In complete disorder
- 22 Mollusk
- 23 Shorten
- 24 Glossy materials
- 28 Buffer
- 29 Autocrat
- 32 Fiber plant
- 33 Miscellany
- 35 Musical instrument
- 37 Contract
- 40 In a state of confusion
- 43 Haunt
- 44 Short jacket
- 45 Conduct
- 46 — avis
- 48 Lop
- 50 Thrifty
- 51 A sweet wine
- 54 Peak
- 56 USSR mountain range
- 57 In complete disorder
- 63 Toy on a string
- 64 Territory
- 65 Another name
- 66 — entendre
- 67 Particular
- 68 Excited
- 69 Lapses
- 70 Garden aid
- 71 System

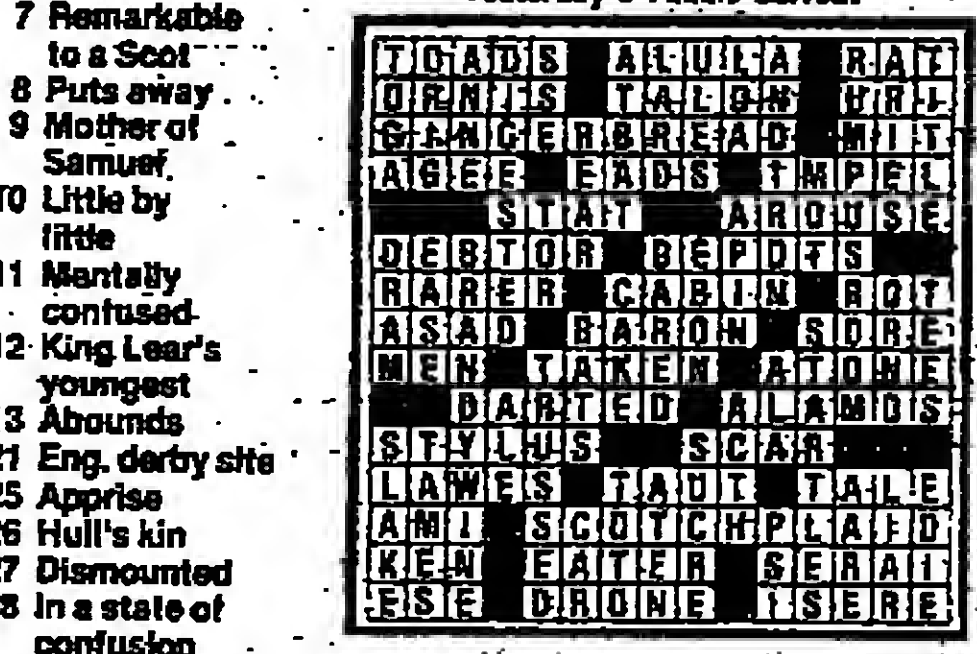
DOWN

- 1 Stocking
- 2 Vessel
- 3 Hardy lass
- 4 City liquid
- 5 Respected
- 6 Indian sage
- 8 Incursion
- 9 Fr. clergyman
- 10 Origins
- 11 Important events
- 12 King Lear's youngest
- 13 Abounds
- 14 Eng. derby site
- 15 Apples
- 16 Hull's kin
- 17 In a state of confusion
- 18 Fr. clergyman
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- 42 Apples
- 43 Hull's kin
- 44 In a state of confusion
- 45 Fr. clergyman
- 46 Origins
- 47 Important events
- 48 King Lear's youngest
- 49 Abounds
- 50 Eng. derby site
- 51 Apples
- 52 Hull's kin
- 53 In a state of confusion
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- 98 In a state of confusion
- 99 Fr. clergyman
- 100 Origins



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



41 Soup vegetable 56 Sovereign
42 Harmony 57 Fry through
43 Star in Aquila 58 A knothole
44 Tub 59 Equivocal
45 Possibly 60 Epicarp
46 Bitter powder 61 Um
47 Artery 62 Fr. river

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Important Notice Christmas Holidays

The visa section of the British Embassy will be closed from 21 December until 26 December INCLUSIVE. Additionally, the visa section will be closed on 1st January 1985. Travellers wishing to visit the United Kingdom over the Christmas and New Year holidays are therefore strongly advised to make an early application for their visas, and in any event, no later than 18 December.

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

المجلس الثقافي البريطاني

The British Council have pleasure in offering a **TEACHER TRAINING COURSE** for native English speakers, leading to the Royal Society of Arts Preparatory Certificate in the Teaching of English as a Foreign Language.

The course will run from 20th April to 19th June 1985. Interviews and Registration will take place at the British Council on Sunday 16th December from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and Monday 17th December from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m.

For further information please contact the British Council, Rainbow Street, Tel: 36147/8

<p>Cinema CONCORD</p> <p>Tel: 44092-44280</p> <p>WAR GAMES</p> <p>Colour</p> <p>Tel: 677420</p> <p>Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema AL-HUSSEIN</p> <p>Tel: 22117</p> <p>WHO OF US IS THE THIEF</p> <p>(Colour) (Arabic)</p> <p>Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8</p>	<p>Cinema RAINBOW</p> <p>Tel: 25155</p> <p>AGAINST ALL ODDS</p> <p>(Colour)</p> <p>3:30 6:00 8:30 10:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Cinema ZAHARAN</p> <p>Tel: 23171</p> <p>THE CRITERION</p> <p>(Colour)</p> <p>Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8</p>	<p>Cinema OPERA</p> <p>JAWS-3</p> <p>(Colour)</p> <p>Abdali, behind ALIA offices</p>	<p>Cinema PALESTINE</p> <p>Tel: 22117</p> <p>THE LEOPARD</p> <p>(Colour)</p> <p>The Year 2019 after the fall of New York</p> <p>Performances: 12-3-5-7</p>	<p>Cinema RAGHADAN</p> <p>Tel: 22198</p> <p>THE VIRGIN COMMANDOS</p> <p>(Colour)</p> <p>Performances: 12-3-5-8</p>
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Sudan abolishes interest rates in all local banks

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's central bank has ordered all Sudanese banks to stop charging interest in a fresh move to cement Sharia (Islamic) law introduced 15 months ago.

A circular issued on Monday directed local banks to settle commitments and debts due by Feb. 14 last year, the date the civil transactions act prohibiting any form of usury was promulgated.

Foreign banks operating in Sudan will be exempted from the new measure until a new formula is reached, it added.

The circular advised the banks that if settlements with clients could not be made in line with Islamic law, the cases should be referred to a special court set up by the chief justice.

The central bank also ruled that banks may accept interest-free deposits — to be known as investment deposits — which it said will be employed in commercial and other investments.

In October, Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri introduced Zakat, a flat rate tax under which a certain amount of a person's profits goes to Islamic institutions, including the government.

The move was seen as the first step in Islamising the banking sector.

Bahraini iron pellet plant faces marketing problems

BAHRAIN (R) — The Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, inaugurated a \$300 million iron pellet plant here Wednesday amid concern that there may be marketing problems for its product.

The plant was built by Japan's Kobe Steel Limited for the Arab Iron and Steel Company, a pan-Arab joint venture of private and public organisations.

At full capacity, it can transform iron ore into four million tonnes per year of iron oxide pellets, used in steel plants.

A large Wednesday loaded the company's first shipment of 20,000 tonnes and headed for Saudi Iron and Steel Company, just up the Gulf in Jubail.

But one company source said there was concern that the Gulf market for the pellets is limited now to about 800,000 tonnes a year, mostly in Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

The company had hoped to fill the huge requirements of Iraq and possibly also Iran, whose combined demands in peak time are about three million tonnes a year, the source said. The war between them has closed that market.

A steel plant, which is energy-intensive, would have the advantage of a steady supply of cheap natural gas from Bahrain.

The pellet plant is receiving gas at about one-fifth the world price, an industry source said, but because the plant uses comparatively little energy, the cheaper gas price does not cut overall costs significantly.

One industry analyst said that in the present poor market, it is easier for a pellet plant to be profitable if it is tied to a mining operation or to a steel plant, where one operation guarantees a market for another.

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'Fight fire with fire'

WASHINGTON (R) — A presidential task force has recommended tough measures to combat what it calls oppressive government subsidies and other devices used by America's trading partners to capture markets in developing countries.

The recommendations by the president's task force on international private enterprise are contained in a 172-page report to be submitted to President Reagan Thursday.

An accompanying statement made available to Reuters said the report urged the United States to "fight fire with fire" to recapture lost overseas markets.

Specifically, the task force calls on the Agency for International Development (AID) and the U.S. Export-Import Bank, the agency financing international trade, to combine their resources to fight the trade subsidies used by others.

The task force was appointed by Mr. Reagan in May, 1983, to determine how U.S. resources, particularly foreign aid, could help increase U.S. trade, investment and private enterprise in developing countries.

It is headed by Mr. Dwayne Andreas, chief executive of Archer Daniels Midland Co., a major grain processing company, and its members are mostly heads of major U.S. corporations.

In mixed credits programmes, AID funds are mixed with either commercial or government money

to help finance exports.

"The greatest threat to international private enterprise is the use of massive trade mixed credits subsidies and other devices by foreign competitors to capture major markets in developing countries," the statement said.

"The United States now faces an unfortunate situation where it is losing its share of foreign agricultural markets and paying farmers to abort production of food at a time when millions of people in the developing world are starving," it declared.

It also urged the creation of a high-level economic council, similar to the White House National Security Council, to coordinate domestic and international economic action and to oversee trade, agriculture and foreign aid policy.

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BNOC does not aim to maintain oil prices high, British minister says

LONDON (R) — Energy Minister Alick Buchanan-Smith Tuesday appeared to hold out the possibility of lower prices for British North Sea oil.

Answering questions before the parliamentary energy committee, he said the objectives of the British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) included the security of British oil supplies and seeking to trade profitably. But they did not include keeping prices high.

"Certainly at this stage I see no reason to change the objectives of BNOC," the energy minister said.

His comments came at a time when BNOC is under heavy pressure from its customers to cut its prices and from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to maintain its rates.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani said Tuesday that any new price cut by North Sea oil producers could lead

to an oil price war.

Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Arturo Hernandez said a price war would affect Britain the most because North Sea production costs were among the highest in the world.

BNOC said last week it must modify its pricing formula to take greater account of the increasing importance of the free spot market and thus not incur trading losses.

Mr. Buchanan-Smith said he did not know exactly when BNOC prices for the first quarter of 1985 would be set, but that a view on them would have to be taken before the end of the year. The decision would be taken by BNOC alone after consultation with the

government.

"The view of the department of energy on this depends on what happens in the market," he said.

BNOC said last week it was exploring a monthly instead of a quarterly price-fixing system as one way of making itself more sensitive to the increasingly important spot market. But Mr. Buchanan-Smith said talk of BNOC having decided to move towards monthly price setting was just speculation.

BNOC, which handles more than half Britain's oil output, is losing an estimated \$10 to \$15 million a month through having to buy on contract at higher prices than it can charge consumers.

A BNOC spokesman Tuesday denied reports that BNOC had been offering discounts to contract customers since August.

Mr. Buchanan-Smith said BNOC had a role to smooth short-term market fluctuations.

"In the short-term, sharp and perhaps wildly fluctuating changes in price can be extremely damaging," he said. "BNOC can exercise an influence to bridge a movement from one market situation to another."

Some market analysts had believed Mr. Buchanan-Smith might Tuesday have announced a modified pricing policy to bring BNOC's rates closer to spot market prices.

Brent crude is trading at under \$27.50 a barrel on the spot market, well below the BNOC fourth quarter contract price of \$28.65.

When asked by the committee about Norway's decision to move to a system of fixing prices on a more spot related basis, the energy minister said: "Anything done by Norway is one element in our assessment." But no decision had yet been made about BNOC's operations in the first quarter of 1985.

In a related event, Britain's sterling M3 money supply measure, a key gauge of monetary expansion in the economy, rose sharply by 2.34 per cent in the five weeks to mid-November.

But the Bank of England said the figure was almost certainly erratically high and seemed to reflect a build-up of deposits prior to the heavily oversubscribed stock market flotation of the communications firm British Telecom.

Sterling M3 — a broad-based aggregate including cash and current bank accounts — has now risen by an annualised 12.25 per cent since mid-February, well above a government target of six to 10 per cent expansion.

The figure was the largest monthly increase since the ending of "corset" controls on bank lending in July 1980.

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Shell strikes oil in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — The Shell International group's Turkish subsidiary N.V. Turkiye Shell said Wednesday it had made an oil find in eastern Turkey in a rock formation which had never before yielded petroleum in Turkey.

A company spokesman said the Barbes Deep One well near Diyarbakir was producing 1,500 barrels per day (b/d) of light crude of 44 and 46 degrees API gravity and some gas, from a depth of 3,847 metres.

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Gandhi pledges to crush divisive forces in India

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said Wednesday his government would crush forces trying to weaken and break up the country.

Tight Security surrounded Mr. Gandhi as he started a day's tour of his Amethi parliamentary constituency in northern Uttar Pradesh state at the industrial town of Jagdishpur.

Underlining a theme which has dominated most of his campaign speeches, Mr. Gandhi said India could progress only with peace and political stability.

He accused opposition groups of supporting Sikh separatists in northern Punjab state and asked them to clarify their stand on demands for autonomy by the Sikhs' main political party, the Akali Dal.

Fresh violence was reported Wednesday in the run-up to the Dec. 24 polls to parliament's

Lower House, the Lok Sabha.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said one person was killed when police opened fire on a violent crowd at an election rally in the southern state of Tamil Nadu on Monday night after they failed to disperse rioters with batons and tear-gas.

The news agency said three students were stabbed in the remote north eastern state of Tripura when knife-wielding supporters of the ruling Communist Party of India (Marxist) and Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party clashed on Monday.

Four bodyguards of Chief Minister Rishang Keishing were killed in neighbouring Manipur state last week as he toured areas close to

the Burmese border which are a stronghold of guerrilla tribesmen demanding a separate state.

Mr. Gandhi has condemned election violence, which has included an attack on his estranged sister-in-law Maneka — his chief rival in Amethi — and the leader of the right-wing Hindi Bharatiya Janata Party, A.B. Vajpayee.

Mr. Gandhi told rallies in northern Haryana state Tuesday that he would clean up public life, set high standards in administration and halt political defections if re-elected.

"We will mobilise all our might in ensuring a clean public life and provide a corruption-free government," he said.

Congress, which currently holds 339 of the 544 Lok Sabha seats, is widely expected to win the election, helped by a wave of popular sympathy over Indira Gandhi's assassination.

Colombo to reply to Gandhi's accusations

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka decided Wednesday to reply to accusations by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi about the situation on the island following guerrilla violence, a cabinet spokesman said.

Information Minister Anandadasa De Alwis said the cabinet discussed Mr. Gandhi's statement and directed the Foreign Ministry to prepare a reply.

Mr. Gandhi Tuesday accused Sri Lanka of attacking Indian fishermen and said its security forces were guilty of indiscriminate killing.

Mr. De Alwis told reporters the Sri Lankan reply also would point out "various errors in fact" in Mr. Gandhi's statement.

Mr. Gandhi, in his first statement since guerrillas stepped up attacks in the northern parts of Sri Lanka three weeks ago, said he was deeply concerned that the situation there had rapidly deteriorated.

Sri Lankan National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali has linked the upsurge in guerrilla violence to India's general elections on Dec. 24 and to elections in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu the same day.

Mr. Athulathmudali told Reuters Tuesday the rebels were "fighting on the instructions of some people who think that by creating incidents in Sri Lanka and provoking an anti-Tamil backlash they could win in Tamil Nadu."

The guerrillas are fighting for a separate state in northern Sri Lanka for the island's 2.5 million Tamils who have close ethnic and cultural ties with the 50 million Tamils in the south Indian state just 30 kilometres across the Falk Strait.

Reagan asked to abide by arms agreements

WASHINGTON (AP) — Four United States senators have urged president Ronald Reagan to maintain U.S. adherence to existing arms control agreements with the Soviet Union while seeking to reopen negotiations on new accords.

They said in a letter released by Republican Senator John Chafee that restraint by both sides serves U.S. security interests by limiting the development of Soviet weapons.

A commitment by the United States and the Soviet Union to observe the treaties, some of which were never ratified by the Senate, "could provide a positive atmosphere" for negotiations, the letter said.

Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Min-

ister Andrei Gromyko are due to discuss prospects for ending the one-year suspension in negotiations at a meeting Jan. 7-8 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Sen. Chafee was joined in the plea for restraint by Republican Senator John Heinz and Democratic Senators Dale Bumpers and Patrick J. Leahy. In June, the four — all liberal to moderate in their views — won Senate passage of an amendment endorsing the policy of mutual restraint.

Although Mr. Reagan had attacked all major U.S.-Soviet arms control agreements before his election, he promised as president not to undercut the provisions limiting offensive and defensive weapons, provided the Soviets also observed them.

Unseasonal rain threatens remaining Ethiopian crops

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — Unseasonal rain is threatening to destroy the few crops which have survived Ethiopia's drought, the Ministry of Agriculture said Wednesday.

It urged farmers to build shelters to protect crops, which have been harvested and are lying in the fields, against downpours which started this week.

It told farmers in a statement "not to panic but to take precautions to save crops from being spoiled," such as digging trenches to drain excess water from the fields.

In a normal year Ethiopia grows about six million tonnes of food, about one million less than it needs to feed its 41 million people. But three years of drought have devastated successive harvests and the one being picked now after the short rainy season is said

by the government to be the worst in 20 years. The main harvest is picked next spring.

The government says nine million people face starvation because of drought and has appealed for 100,000 tonnes of foreign food aid a month for the coming year.

Ethiopia on Tuesday blamed rich donor nations for the magnitude of its devastating drought and urged support for its controversial programme to relocate famine victims.

Barhanu Bayih, among the Marxist regime's five top leaders and head of the ruling party's Relief Coordinating Committee, said Ethiopia ranks among the lowest in terms of per capita foreign aid received since its 1974 revolution.

Overall, Africa reportedly receives \$22 worth of foreign aid per capita, while Ethiopia receives only \$6 per capita.

Washington threatens pullout from FAO

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan may seek to withdraw the United States from another United Nations organisation even as the deadline nears for the U.S. pullout from UNESCO, the U.N. Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

A confidential, internal working document containing proposed budget cuts was tentatively approved by Mr. Reagan and submitted to the cabinet last week included a one-line item that would "terminate FAO commitment" by 1985.

"Officials in the Reagan administration and Congress associated with the 144-member U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) expressed surprise that the suggestion came while the Rome-based agency is playing a leading role in fighting famine in Africa."

There has been little criticism of the FAO previously in U.S. government circles, but earlier this year the Heritage Foundation, a

conservative research organisation that has been active in the campaign against UNESCO, issued a study calling the FAO a "roadblock to development."

"The U.S. should consider making its entire voluntary contributions to FAO dependent upon FAO's willingness to undertake serious evaluations, establish specific project goals and milestones and create a role for the private sector in the agricultural development activities of the U.N.," the study said.

The Heritage Foundation also proposed the U.S. pullout from UNESCO shortly before the Reagan administration announced last December its intention to withdraw at the end of this year.

In its book *Mandate For Leadership II*, released earlier this month and proposing U.S. government policy for the next four years, it described FAO as one of the "U.N. technical agencies which have become overly politicised and thus do not adequately address technical issues."

Vietnam to try 120 alleged plotters

TOKYO (Agencies) — Vietnamese authorities have arrested about 120 people accused of plotting to topple the government and seized tons of arms and ammunition, the Japanese Kyodo News Service reported from Hanoi Wednesday.

Kyodo quoted diplomatic sources in Hanoi as saying Tuesday that those arrested were mostly military men who had served under the former South Vietnamese government.

The plot is said to be the biggest since the Communists moved into Saigon — now Ho Chi Minh City — in 1975 and unified North and South Vietnam, Kyodo added.

It said about 20 of those arrested would be put on trial in Ho Chi Minh City, possibly on Friday. Trials of the others would follow.

Kyodo quoted the sources as saying opponents of the Hanoi government slipped out of the country after 1975 but kept in contact with underground groups and returned later.

The sources said the seized arms included machine-guns, rifles and hand grenades, Kyodo reported.

Albania accused of human rights abuse

LONDON (R) — Albanians who practise their religion or criticise the government are being given long sentences in labour camps, Amnesty International said Wednesday.

Suspects are routinely beaten in order to force confessions and are denied the right to legal counsel, the human rights organisation charged in a report entitled "Albania: Political Imprisonment and the Law."

"Trials have generally been concluded within a day and Amnesty International knows of no political trials in which the defendant was acquitted," it said.

The report said tight censorship and restrictions on travel in Europe's most closed Communist society made it impossible to estimate the number of political prisoners. But official information and evidence from former camp inmates suggested the total may range into the thousands.

Many of the prisoners were charged with religious activity, penalties for which ranged from 10 years imprisonment to death. Religion in Albania, which was 70 per cent Muslim at the end of World War II, was outlawed in 1967.

Other prisoners were accused of trying to flee the country or of "anti-state agitation and propaganda," which includes listening to foreign radio stations and making contact with foreign tourists.

Courts impose internal deportation to remote areas as a penalty on relatives of people who have fled abroad, the report said.

Cuba agrees to return of 'undesirables' from U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and Cuba have reached basic agreement to return to Havana more than 1,000 "undesirable" refugees while allowing thousands of other Cubans to emigrate here with regular U.S. visas, an administration official said Tuesday.

He said an announcement would be made later in the week unless complications developed over the legal problems of Cubans in detention in this country.

The talks with the Cuban government are "basically wrapped up," said the official, who spoke only on condition he not be identified.

The Justice Department has expressed concern that legal problems raised in U.S. courts by Cubans who want to be set free might make it difficult to repatriate them.

"There may have to be some back-and-forth with the Cuban government over this," the official said.

In return for Cuba's taking back criminals and mental patients, the United States would resume the processing of visas for regular emigration from that country to the United States. More than 20,000 Cubans might come here as a result.

The Cubans to be sent home are now in American jails and mental institutions. They were among 125,000 who left in the Mariel boatlift of 1980.

The two countries have not had diplomatic relations since 1961, and officials stressed the tentative agreement on refugees would not resolve any other outstanding issue between Washington and Havana.

Bomb injures 18 in Chile

SANTIAGO (R) — A bomb exploded in a crowded section of the Santiago Stock Exchange Tuesday injuring eighteen people, three of them seriously, a government spokesman said.

Government Secretary General Francisco Cuadra told reporters the bomb, hidden in a suitcase, exploded at midday in a doorway leading to the dealing hall.

No one claimed responsibility for the blast. Last week four people were injured in a bomb and gun attack in the capital's underground rail system and a policeman was killed in a machine gun attack on a police station.

Chile's President Augusto Pinochet imposed a state of siege at the beginning of November to prevent attacks by leftist guerrillas and to crack down on opposition to his 11-year-old military rule.

Mr. Cuadra said the bomb was made of half a kilogramme of explosive detonated by a timing device.

One witness said a woman in the crowd was thrown into another room by the blast. Most of the injured were hurt by shrapnel.

Security forces surrounded the building as bomb disposal experts searched for possible other devices inside.

Salvadoran rebels release prisoners, announce truce

LA JOYA, El Salvador (AP) — Salvadoran rebels freed 43 captured soldiers Tuesday and announced they will stop all armed offensive action over Christmas and New Year.

The soldiers, captured Dec. 1, were freed in a sparse, scattered collection of peasant huts known as La Joya in the parched, partly burned-over hills of San Vicente province, deep in rebel territory.

They appeared to be in good condition and said they had not been mistreated. They were turned over to a delegation of International Red Cross and Roman Catholic Church officials, including Monsignor Arturo Rivera Y Damas, Archbishop of San Salvador.

The soldiers were captured in fighting at El Salto on the slopes of San Vicente Volcano, about 56 kilometres south east of the San Salvador.

All but two known to have been captured were returned on Tuesday. Two cadet lieutenants continued to be held and an International Red Cross official, who spoke on condition he not be identified, said they may be exchanged later for guerrillas held by the army.

The rebels said they will observe a unilateral "total truce" from midnight Dec. 23 until midnight Dec. 26 for Christmas, and from midnight Dec. 30 until midnight Jan. 2 for the New Year.

press secretary Oscar Reyes said. Secretaries in the offices of other government and military officials who participated in peace talks between the government and the rebels told the Associated Press the officials were out of their offices and it was not known when they would return.

A communique distributed by the rebel leadership in San Salvador and in Mexico City said guerrilla forces would take only defensive action during those periods.

It said the rebel leadership made the decision "to demonstrate its willingness to advance in the creation of conditions that might favour the solution of the conflict by way of dialogue and negotiation."

It also said rebel forces will "guarantee the movement" of government soldiers who want to visit relatives and friends in rebel-held territory.

The communique said the decision was made separately from, and will not affect, an agreement reached Nov. 30 in the second round of peace talks with government leaders. This accord allows free movement of traffic on this Central American nation's highways from Dec. 22 to Jan. 3.

The rebels said their decision was made "to allow government soldiers to enjoy some leave and reunite with their relatives and friends, and so that all the people can enjoy the atmosphere created by this decision of our fighting forces."

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Gandhi killing named top news of 1984

CHICAGO (R) — The assassination of Indira Gandhi, the turmoil in India leading up to her murder and events afterwards was the top news story of 1984, according to the editors of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. The U.S. presidential election took second place. Britannica editors in the U.S., Britain, France, Italy, Brazil, Mexico and Japan, in the second year of the top 10 stories: Famine in rating, chose in order as the rest of the top 10 stories: Konstantin Chernenko's succession to power in the Soviet Union, the Vatican role in world affairs, the Los Angeles Olympics, worldwide terrorism, the U.S. space shuttle programme, and the poison gas tragedy in Bhopal, India.

Rare swans flock to Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Migrating rare Mute swans, last seen in large numbers in Cyprus over a century ago, are flocking to salt lakes on the southern coast of the Mediterranean island and police have warned hunters not to touch them. Well over 200 of the graceful swans have been sighted on Larnaca and Akrotiri salt lakes in the last three days, Ornithological Society Secretary Pavlos Neophytou told Reuters. "Something unusual must have happened in Europe, or while the birds were migrating to Africa. The swans rarely appear in Cyprus," he said. Severe weather may have driven the swans in and members of a team sent by the society found the birds so tame they could approach and touch them. Mr. Neophytou said.

Health care worker contacts AIDS

BOSTON (R) — A medical laboratory worker who is not a homosexual, a drug user, a haemophiliac or of Haitian origin has AIDS and doctors say he may be the first case in the United States to have picked up the disease from work. A spokeswoman for the New England Medical Centre where he is in intensive care quoted doctors as saying "some of the blood... (in the man's work place) was probably from people with a high risk of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)." Homosexuals, drug users, haemophiliacs and people of Haitian origin have proved to be the most vulnerable to the AIDS virus, which destroys the body's ability to fight disease and has afflicted more than 6,000 people in the U.S.

Jackson postpones concert in Egypt

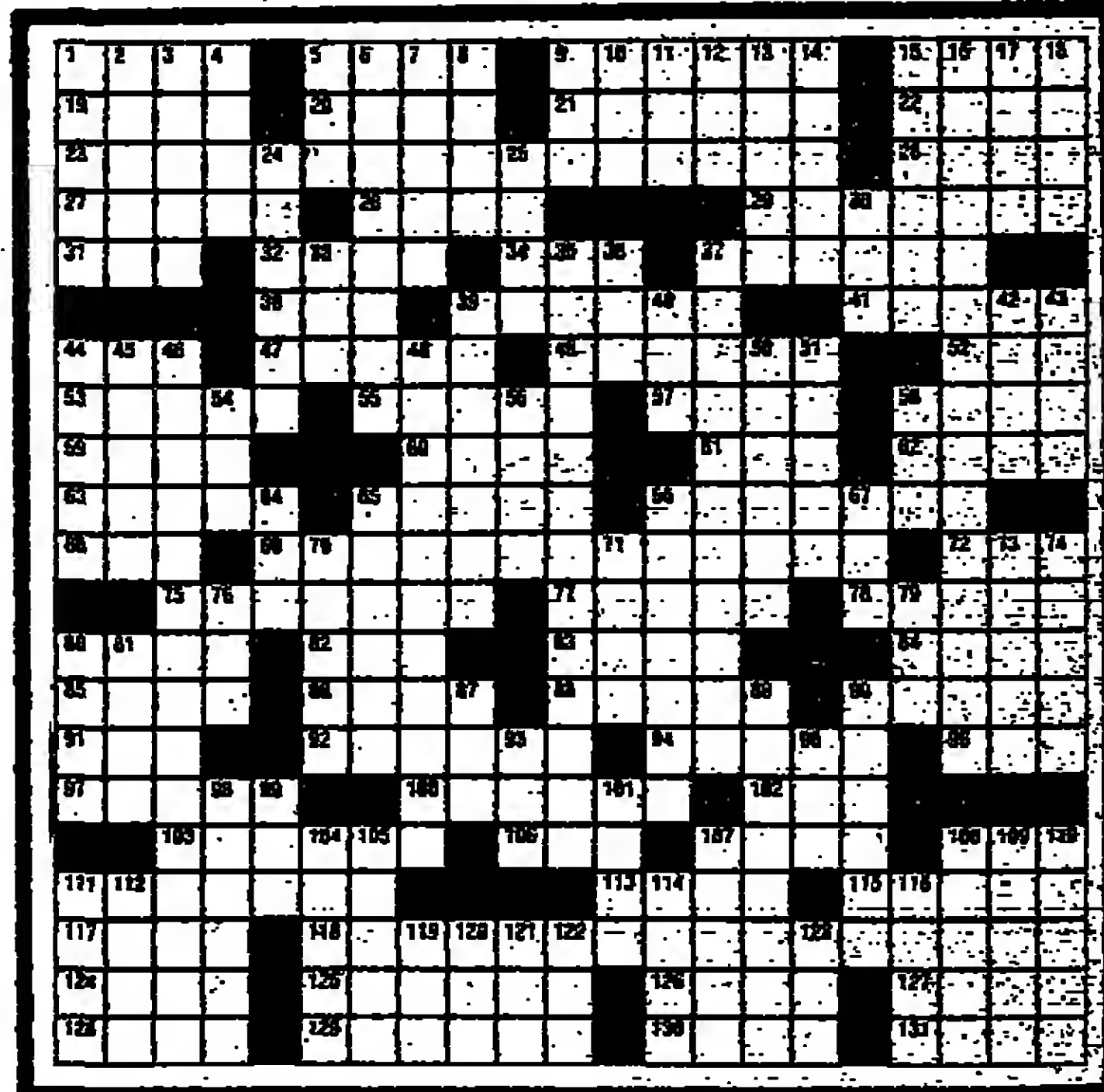
CAIRO (AP) — Michael Jackson has postponed charity concerts in Egypt which had been set for late this month due to "unforeseen circumstances," the newspaper *Al-Ahram* reported Wednesday. The semi-official newspaper said the international rock star telephoned the Egyptian Tourist Association on Tuesday to say he would make the tour at an undetermined time next summer. Jackson was to have arrived Dec. 28 for three charity concerts, including one using the Sphinx and the three Giza Pyramids as a backdrop.

Bucks Fizz involved in road accident

NEWCASTLE, England (R) — Two members of the British pop group Bucks Fizz were seriously injured in a road accident in which 15 people were hurt Wednesday, a hospital spokesman said. Singers Mike Nolan and Cheryl Baker were in hospital with severe laceration after being thrown through the windscreen of the coach in which they were travelling. One of the group's support musicians, keyboard player Tony Marshall, was described as critical with chest injuries.

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Ettinger



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Fading entrepreneur went broke building plant outcrops for drink-beds.
2. Villain in your whooduns have always hidden behind the buffet.
3. Strident speaker at large conference looked up and found audience gone.
4. Babbled baboon battles gibbering gibber for finest banana.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. GE GO KDEGYNT BURB BUN SEERTNIGLE
NAANKBO RA BEHIND BEN OGZURO SNOS
RONEINT AERY BUN ENRE — By Tom Sherry
2. QDC DICTY DULCE ECY SCORIGUS XUL XTPP
OLB XIUY DROPRICILE RTISE — By Marlene E. Allmon
3. CHOKI EDG PDSIULE UL AHAT SOP IDC YRAB
POPPER SCHOPERY — By Lyle H. Jones
4. TFFD WARTOS WAXFI IPAIL OF XWAB XWAB
XYDSB WSOOAJ OAHSW — By Carl Rodman



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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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A LITTLE LEARNING

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ A 54
♥ K Q J 8
♦ Q J 4 2
♦ 10 4

WEST EAST
♦ Void ♦ J 7 6 3 2
♥ 10 9 6 4 ♥ 7 2
♦ 7 6 5 3 ♦ K 10 9 8
♦ 9 8 7 3 2 ♦ J 6

SOUTH
♦ K Q 10 9 8
♥ A 5 3
♦ A K Q 5

The bidding:
South West North East
2 ♦ Pass 3 ♦ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♦ Pass
5 NT Pass 6 ♦ Pass
7 ♦ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Nine of ♣.

The way to handle a particular suit combination could vary, depending on communication between declarer's hand and dummy. This example is typical.

After South opened with a demand bid, North correctly set the suit immediately rather than bid one of his four-card suits. South launched into Blackwood and boldly went to a grand slam as soon as he established that his partner held an ace and a king. He chose to play the

suit slam in case he needed a club ruff for his 13th trick. West led a club. Declarer won in hand and laid down the king of trumps. When West failed to follow, declarer had no way to pick up the jack of trumps, so he ended up down one.

South knew enough to make the correct play had there been only one entry to the table. Then, playing the king of trumps before crossing to the ace would allow him to pick up the suit if it split 4-1 — that break is more likely than 5-0.

As the cards lie, however, declarer has a heart entry to the board as well as the ace of spades. Now correct technique in the trump suit is to cross to the ace at trick two. If both defenders follow, declarer continues with a trump to the king. If trumps are 3-2, declarer can claim: if West shows out, declarer can get back to dummy with a high heart to take a finesse for the jack of trumps.

On the actual hand, West shows out on the first spade. Declarer wins and takes a trump finesse, then crosses back to the board in hearts to take a second trump finesse. Now his grand slam is assured.